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Poetry.

THE OLD ARITHMETIC.

I was delving in the garret and I came upon it there
With a lot of tattered fellows, underneath a crippled chair;
And I opened it, delighted, dreaming of the days agone
When I writhed in mental torture at the acts of James and John.

There it was, that dog-eared volume, which had prompted boyish tears,
Many a time and very often in those distant, dismal years;
There it was with all its tables and its figures—and the names
Of those youthful malefactors noted down as John and James.

As I turned the ragged pages once again before my view
Rose our class of earnest youngsters of the days of '62;
Mame Kirkpatrick—first as usual—she was a phenomenon—
Chalking down the proper answer in the case of James and John.

Once again there came an urchin weirdly patched at either knee,
Staring sadly at the blackboard. (Figures always bothered me).
And again I heard a whisper and the voice I knew for Mame's;
"Take six dollars from the quotient. Answer: 'Sixty cents for James.'"

So I chalked it down exultant, and the master, having heard
Of that gentle prompting whisper not the fraction of a word,
Complimented me for quickness—but in sadness said anon:
"You should credit James with sixty. You have marked it down for John."

Ah, the old schooldays have vanished with their problems and their woes,
With their "rules" and their "divisors" and their "multiples"—and those
Restless youth forever trading till I sickened of their names,
And declared a fierce vendetta unto all called John or James.

Listen! It is Mamie singing, and her voice is sweet as when
She was prompting me in class time. (How it all comes back again!)
It must be the twins are waking; I shall just look in upon
Those exemplars of perfection named by her as James and John.

—Chicago Record.

AN INFORMAL PRAYER.

"The proper way for many to pray,"
Said Deacon Lemuel Keyes,
"And the only proper attitude,
Is down upon his knees."
"No, I should say the way to pray,"
Said Rev. Dr. Wise,
"Is standing straight with outstretched arms,
And rapt and upturned eyes."
"Oh, no; oh, no," said Elder Slow,
"Such posture is too proud.
A man should pray with eyes fast closed
And head contritely bowed."
"It seems to me his hands should be
Austerely clasped in front,
With both thumbs pointing to the ground,"
Said Rev. Dr. Hunt.
"Last year I fell in Hodgkin's well
Head first," said Cyrus Brown,
"With both my heels a-sticking up,
My head a-pintin' down;
An' I made a prayer right then an' there—
Best prayer I ever said,
The prayingest prayer I ever prayed,
A-standin' on my head."

—Sam Walter Foss in New York Tribune.

Miscellany.

A MATTER OF COURTESY.

How He Got Even With an Imperturbable Woman.

An irascible man entered the substation exactly at 4 o'clock and, approaching the money order desk, politely requested the presiding genius to issue him an order for $50, says the New York Advertiser. "Too late," said the damsel curtly, pointing with an ink-stained finger to the clock. The indignant man stormed, raved and finally challenged the correctness of the timepiece. The imperturbable lady smiled. The following afternoon, two minutes before the closing hour, he again presented himself and calmly asked:

"Am I too late."

"Only just in time," remarked the damsel crossly.

"Thank you. Now, miss, I must trouble you to issue me fifty orders for $1 each."

"F-i-f-t-y!" gasped the horror-stricken woman. Her tea had just arrived and was standing on a table behind the screen. "Surely you are joking?"

"Madam," said the man, raising his hat politely, "courtesy begets courtesy."

A Poser.

"Papa," said the thoughtful little son of the railroad president, "if husband and wife are really one—"

"As they are, my boy," put in the railroad president.

"—why is it you make 'em pay two fares to ride on your road?"—Chicago Post.

Hoped Not.

Bob—Where did you get that necktie?

Billy—My wife gave it to me to remember her by.

"Goodness! She's not as ugly as that, is she?"—Yonkers Statesman.

Anxious for It.

Bobbie—Mother, were all the bad men destroyed by the flood?

Mother—Yes, my son.

Bobbie (who has just received a whipping from his father)—When is there going to be another flood?—Tit-Bits.

Her Luxury Denied Her.

"I was so vexed," said the dear girl, "that I could have cried."

"And did you?" asked the other dear girl.

"No. I was just getting ready to when the dinner bell rang."—Cincinnati Post.

Man's Economy.

Jack—Come and have a drink.

Tom—I thought you were going to economize.

Jack—I am doing so, but I don't want to overdo the matter. Four beggars asked me for dimes and I refused them all, so that is 40 cents saved. On the strength of that I can afford to set up the drinks.—Truth.

DOES IT PAY TO BE PRESIDENT?

HARRISON AND CLEVELAND MADE MONEY IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

Probability That McKinley Will Also Accumulate a Snug Little Fortune.

Washington, Jan. 30.—Does it pay to be President of the United States?

This question was asked by a member of Congress, in the X. Club, and was immediately the subject of a hot debate, five out of six claiming that it did not pay, financially speaking, to govern for four years the greatest republic in the world. These five debated that, from a professional view, a man lost his clientele and his legal position during four years' absence in Washington, and that the expenses attending the occupancy of the White House were three times the salary of $50,000 per annum paid.

The sixth man claimed that, as an investment, it did pay to be President of the United States, and he gave these few arguments as clinchers:

When Grover Cleveland entered the White House twelve years ago he was a man of about forty-eight. He had little personal reputation and was, up to the date of his election as governor, enjoying a small income from a moderate law practice in Buffalo, where he had held some minor city offices.

When Grover Cleveland left the White House four years later he was the owner of a very good house in New York city, a nice little mansion outside Washington, and was contemplating further purchases. One of these was his Lakewood home.

To-day as he prepares to leave the White House for a second time, he can count among his possessions a beautiful home at Princeton, one of the most historic in that famous old place, and a palatial residence at Gray Gables. He has a little Southern rookery along the duck hunting regions which has never been photographed, and it is said that he owns a good slice of Lakewood property. He also has Buffalo holdings.

He entered the White House a man of moderate means. He goes forth a citizen wealthy enough to keep up two magnificent country homes, a town house, immense stables in country and in town, and a retinue of servants as large as Victoria employs.

This is perfectly correct for an ex-President of the United States, and it would be lamentable if its ex-Presidents were not left men of means, but it spikes the guns in that field of debate made by the congressmen who say it does not "pay to be President of the United States."

When Cleveland left the White House at the close of his first term he had what is known as "a little." He was not embarrassed to meet his expenses, but he had to work to keep going. Entering a law firm in New York he speedily found that money flowed in to him. He was engaged as counsel of great trusts and corporations. The wealthiest people thronged his office. His clients offered him large sums to do small legal duties. For offering a paper at court he was paid $1000, and $50,000 was given him as a retaining fee once, when he was to plead in open court.

In the White House he managed to save a little, too, for his wife's popularity brought horses and cows into the White House stables, and both Woodley and Gray Gables farm were stocked with choice prize animals, gifts to Mrs. Cleveland and the children.

That is the financial record of the only living man who has been President of the United States two terms. His wealth steadily increased with service to his country.

For the second point in his argument the member of Congress took the case of Benjamin Harrison. Here is a man who has been President only once. When he entered the White House he had a splendid name, descended from his grandfather, who was also a President of the United States. The name of "Harrison" alone had built up a fairly good practice at the bar.

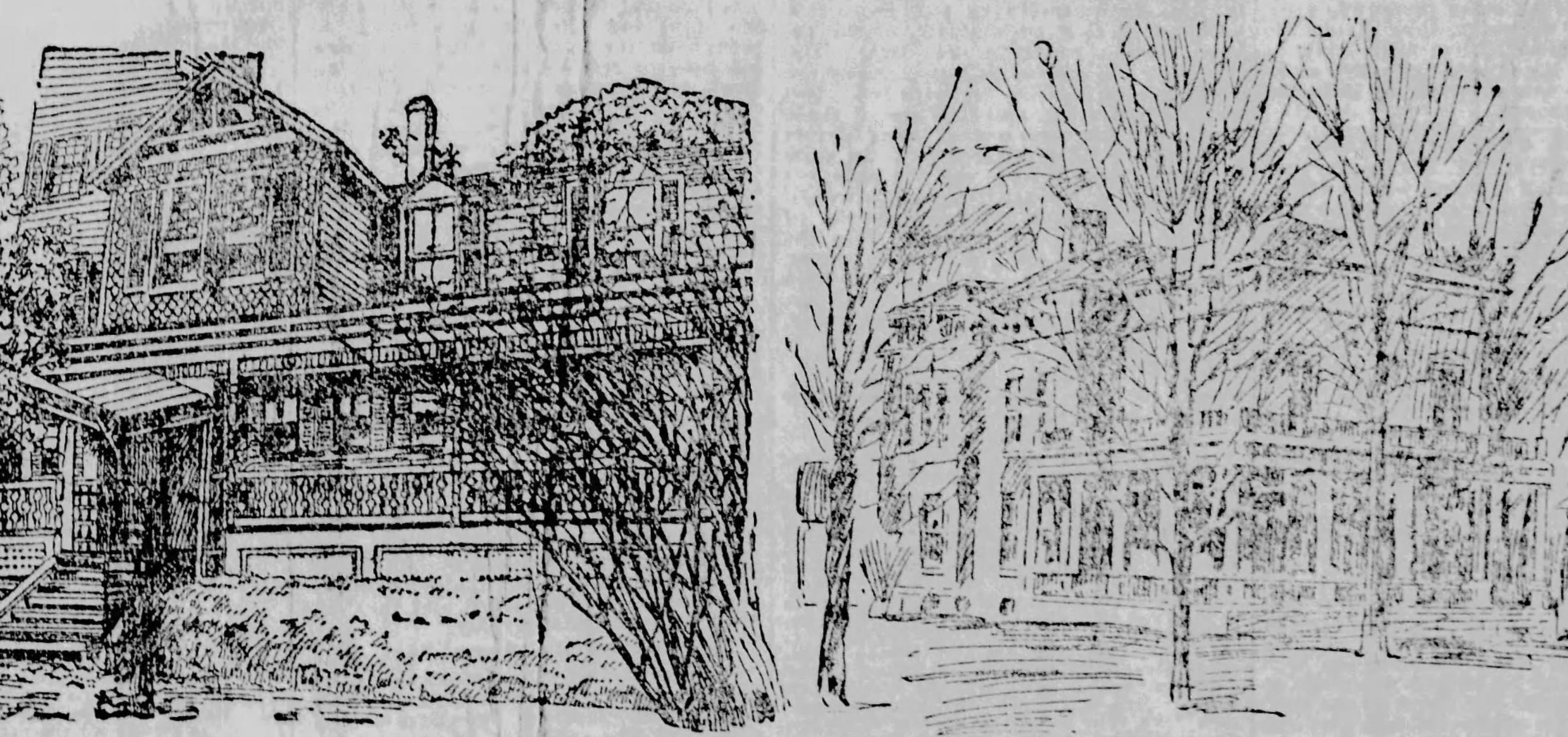
When Harrison entered the White House he had a home in Indianapolis. Rumor said it was mortgaged and that the first Mrs. Harrison had worked with all a woman's frugality to clear it, so as to have a homestead for herself and children forever.

Let that be as it may, the Indianapolis homstead is not mortgaged now. It is situated in one of the best parts of the city and is the scene of the finest receptions known in the West. Only in Washington, where they know how to receive guests, are the Harrison afternoons and evenings equaled in splendor or in the elegance of the guests.

Another Harrison possession is the Loon Lake Cottage, bought when he was in the White House; and to this he has added a very fine log house in the Adirondacks, which was built for this wife. It is said that Mr. Harrison also owns real estate in Saratoga, and that he is thinking of establishing a New York residence. His means are ample for anything he may choose to do.

The Union League man argued that all Presidents left the White House rich or capable of getting rich. They invariably owned more homes than when they went to Washington and within three months after their retirement became engaged in some large and profitable occupation.

M'KINLEY'S LITTLE HOME.



HARRISAN'S HOUSE AT LOON LAKE AND INDIANAPOLIS.

Benjamin Harrison earns large sums of money at different professions. Not only is he obliged to turn away clients by the score, but he refuses more lecture invitations than any other man in the world. He could make as much every year as Robert Ingersoll with his lecture tours. He is a fluent, easy speaker, but this fact alone would not make him a howling success. It is because he was once President of the United States, and the eclat attending that position is such that there is not a town hall in the United States that could hold half the people that would flock to hear Benjamin Harrison lecture if the doors were thrown open, free to all, and transportation furnished. We reverence our rulers to a greater extent than the English reverence Victoria, say what we will to the contrary.

Besides this, he makes large sums writing for the press and the magazines. He can ask his own sum and the check is sent him doubled over his own price, so that he will write again, and thus secure the circulation of the magazine.

William McKinley is called a poor man. His modest home in Canton is far from being a mansion. He has kept house only a short time. He has no fortune, and may not be "comfortable."

He has now four years to serve in the White House. How long before he will have a country home outside Washington? How long before he will own a box somewhere along the Sorronto Lakes?

On his retirement will he not purchase a very nice house in his favorite city and dwell there, practicing law or engaging in some great occupation? It is safe, judging from the examples of his predecessors, to say that he will never be a poor man again.

The other five men present listened to these arguments and nodded assent to the end. "Guess we don't treat our Presidents so badly after all," said one. And all agreed that it must pay to be President of the United States.

ELECTRIC FARMING.

The Use of the Dynamo on Hill-Country Farms.

Great strides are being made in Germany in the way of applying machinery to many lines of industry.

But perhaps most remarkable of all is the application of dynamos to agriculture, supplying the three elements of heat, light and productive energy, as well as labor.

On one of the new electric farms a turbine drives a dynamo which lights the barns, yards and dwellings, and furnishes a current of low tension to work pumps, run straw cutter, lathe, grindstone, large handsaw and thrashing machine. One machinist attends to the entire plant, which experience proves has reduced the expenses of the farm in considrable degree.

This new method of farming has already displaced labor to an extent that is making farm laborers very anxious. Not only does the "electric farmer" compete disastrously with the old-timer, but the electricity so stimulates the growth of his crops by night that he reaps a double advantage.

When one reflects to what a vast extent Germany is agricultural the introduction of an invention that is to make thousands of farm laborers unnecessary seems fraught with serious consequences.—Boston Globe.

SOME WELL KNOWN NAMES.

W. S. Witham, of Atlanta, is president of 27 Georgia banks located in the small towns of that state.

Charles Avery Whipple's fine portrait of Gen. Miles has been purchased by Col. Albert A. Pope, of Boston, to be presented by him to the Military Academy at West Point. The portrait now hangs in the Madison Square Garden as a feature in the decorations for the military tournament.

Rev. Ella M. Bartlett the only woman preacher in St. Louis, has been asked to resign from the pastorate of the Universalist mission. She refuses. The congregation desire a male pastor. Miss Bartlett is a descendant of Josiah Bartlett, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

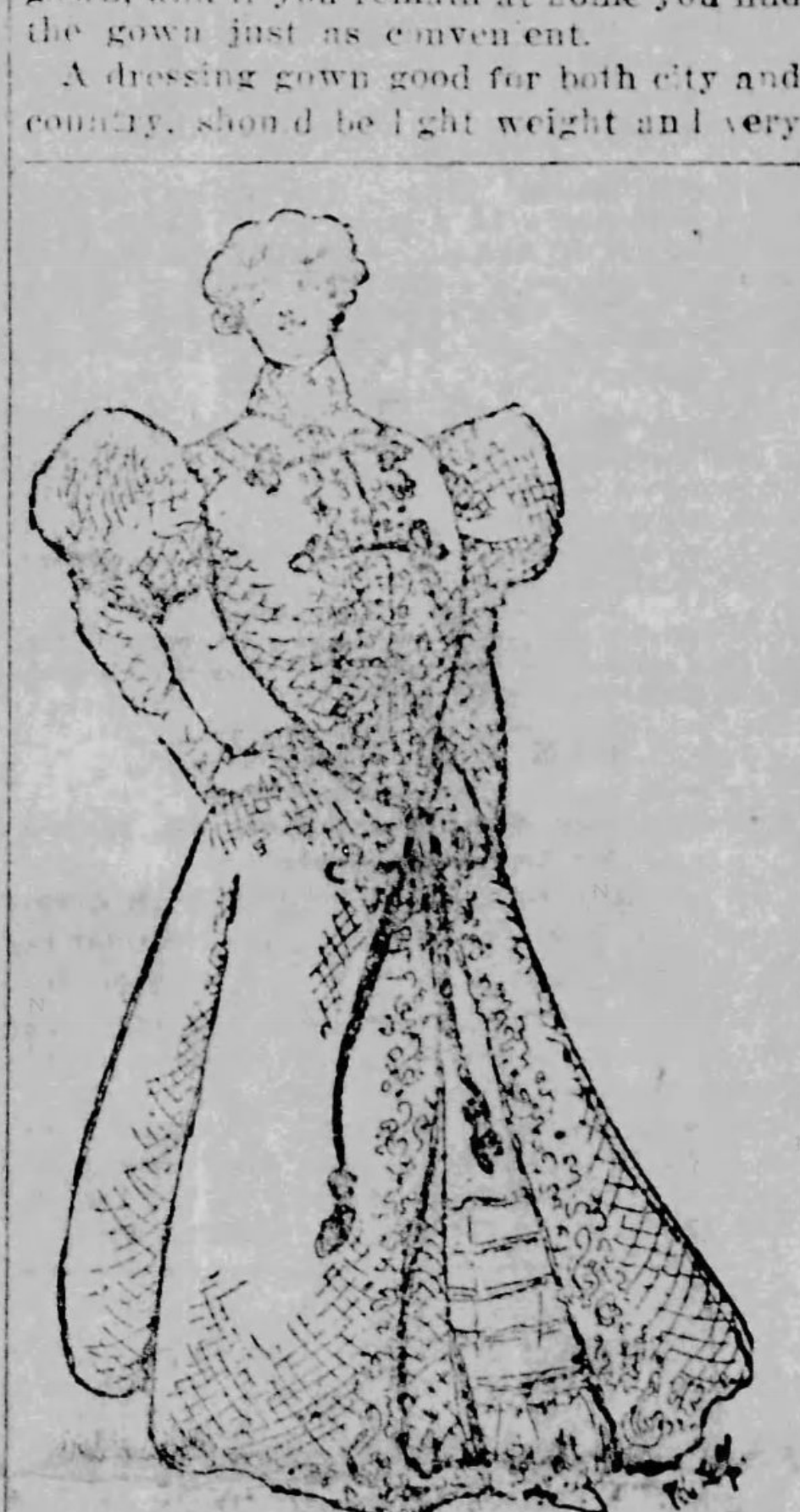
The late Joseph Mylechreest, who represented Peel in the House of Keys of the Isle of Man legislature, was the original of Peter in Hall Caine's "Manxman." At his death Mr. Mylechreest was still the owner of the Mylechreest diamonds, two gems which are practically unsalable on account of their high value.

It is reported at Berlin that four royal engagements will be announced this month: Prince Christian of Denmark to Princess Pauline of Wurtemberg; Prince Max of Baden to Princess Fedore of Schleswig-Holstein; the Prince of Wied to Princess Ingsborg of Denmark, and Prince Albert of Schaumburg-Lippe to Duchess Elsa of Wurtemberg.

JAPANESE DRESSING GOWN

Of Old Blue Quilted Silk, Lined With Eiderdown, It is Warm and Comfortable.

If you have ever been to a house party in the country you will know what it is to yearn for a comfortable dressing gown, and if you remain at home you find the gown just as convenient.



COMFORTABLE DRESSING GOWN.

A dressing gown good for both city and country, should be light weight and very warm. A very nice one is of old blue Japanese silk, quilted. It is plain and full, and is embroidered down the front in pink and green. It is fastened with blue silk frogs across the front, and is tied with a blue silk cord and tassle. The silk, which is inexpensive, can be quilted at home, and the frogs crocheted of blue silk.

These gowns are greatly in demand, as they are so easy to slip on, and so warm, without having any weight. They are especially desirable for invalids, as they are so comfortable for couch wear.

INCIDENT OF THE REVOLUTION.

The Famous Chain Stretched Across the Hudson to Defend the River.

There are not many people who would recognize in the name Samuel Wheeler a person who did valuable service for our country in the war of the Revolution. It was he who made the famous chain that was stretched across the Hudson river to stop the British warships from ascending the stream. At the time Gen. Washington was puzzled about defending the river.

"I wish I could get a chain made, but that is impossible," he said, and Gen. Mifflin, overhearing the remark, exclaimed:

"Not so. We have a man in the army a townsman of mine, one Wheeler, who can make you such a chain."

Gen. Washington had Wheeler brought to him, and said:

"I want a chain to put across the North river to stop the British ships. Can you make it?"

"I can," replied Wheeler, "but I cannot do it here."

"Then," said Washington, "I will cheerfully give you dismission from the army to do so, for badly as we want such men as you, I cannot afford to keep you."

Mr. Wheeler made the chain, and its links were hauled across New Jersey, to be finally strung across the river, where it did good service. By building a fire under one of the links and then using a sledge hammer and a chisel, it was ultimately cut apart.—Harper's Round Table.

Her Dear Friend.

Mrs. Painter—My husband is delighted with my pictures.

Mrs. Pointer—You don't say so? Don't they look like you?—Yonkers Statesman.

Our Serial Story.

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"The Clock Struck One"

By FERGUS HUME.

Author of "The Mystery of a Hansom Cab," "The Lone Inn," "The Expedition of Captain Flick," "The Mystery of Landy Court, etc.

CHAPTER IX.—AN AMAZING REWARD.

The extraordinary will of Julian Edermont caused a no less extraordinary sensation. Pursuant to the instructions of his late client, Carver caused the contents of the will to be published in almost every newspaper of the three kingdoms, and the advertisement was copied and printed, and talked about all over the civilized world. Many of the leading London dailies devoted a leading article to discussing the eccentricity of the bequest. Of these lucubrations none was more noteworthy than that of "The Morning Plant."

"Here is a chance for our amateur and professional detective," it said. "A riddle to stimulate the curiosity; a magnificent reward to repay the solution of the same. Mr. Edermont, a recluse, dwelling in the Red House, near Canterbury, has been barbarously murdered; and fifty thousand pounds is now offered for the discovery and apprehension of his murderer. It seems that the dead man had a past, and that that past had engendered an enemy. For twenty years Mr. Edermont lived in strict retirement, and took extraordinary precautions to ensure his safety. But all in vain. The man or woman—for no one is aware of the sex of the assassin—discovered the victim, and carried out the revenge in a peculiarly brutal fashion. There is nothing to show how the assassin came or went; but the time of the committal of the crime has been ascertained by the evidence of Miss Carew, the ward of the deceased. She fancied she heard a cry, and immediately afterwards the hall clock struck one. There can be no doubt that Miss Carew really did hear a cry, and was not dreaming, as she fancied, and that such cry was the last appeal of the poor victim for mercy.

"In the will of Mr. Edermont, he mentions that the story of his life is set forth in a manuscript locked up in his bureau. It is evident that the assassin knew of the existence of this narrative, for immediately after committing the crime, he—we will assume by way of argument that the criminal is a man—rifled the desk, and made off with the paper containing an account of his motive for revenge. He knew that such paper would condemn him, and that with its aid the officers of the law would have little difficulty in putting a rope round his neck. Doubtless such story gave his name—possibly his address—and he was aware that it thus jeopardized his safety. But be this as it may, one fact remains—that the assassin has stolen the sole clue to his discovery; and it would seem the death of Julian Edermont must remain wrapped in mystery.

"But fifty thousand pounds! Will anyone permit this death to go unavenged when he can gain such a reward. A fortune for life, and the consciousness of having done his duty to the dead man, and to society. No doubt our inglorious Vidocques, our amateur Sherlock Holmes, will set to work to unravel the mystery and gain the reward. The Red House, near Canterbury, will become the shrine of pilgrim detectives from all parts of the world. Nevertheless, in spite of their greed, we doubt whether the mystery will ever be solved. The sole clue, so far as we can see, is to be found in the past life of the dead man. The tale of that past life is set forth in a certain paper; such paper is in the possession of the assassin, who is himself unknown. To find the paper, they must find the assassin; without the paper the assassin cannot be found; and so matters are at a deadlock. We shall await the development of this extraordinary case with interest; but we doubt whether the fifty thousand pounds will ever be claimed. Julian Edermont is dead and buried; his assassin has escaped with the story of the motive for the crime in his pocket. Here the case stands. What light can be thrown on this darkness? what clue can be found to the cunning murderer? We wait the answer from the possible man or woman who can honestly claim fifty thousand pounds."

While papers talked thus, while people wondered, and would-be winners of the reward set their wits to work on the facts of the case, Dora remained at the Red House. No change was made in her life, or in that of Joad. In conjunction with Meg, the girl still looked after the domestic details of the mansion; and Joad still came and went from nine to nine. He became morose after the death of his friend, and hardly addressed a word to Dora. But she was aware that he constantly watched her in a furtive manner, which in the end became exceedingly annoying. Had the terms of the will been less clear, she would have left the Red House, or have induced Joad to confine his life to his own cottage. But in order to exist, and draw her poor rental of two hundred a year, she was forced to live in the house, with Joad, dirty, disreputable and crabbed, at her elbow. She disliked the man exceedingly; the more so as she had a suspicion that he admired her; but fettered as she was by the terms of the will, she could do nothing.

Nevertheless, she became aware as the days went by that she would have to make some change in her life. It was impossible that she should go on living with an illiterate servant and an admiring satyr; it was equally impossible that she could continue to remain at variance with Allen after the last interview; he neither came near her, nor wrote a line to comfort her; and angered as she was at his heartless and inexplicable conduct, she made up her mind to see him. In one way or the other she would bring the matter to an end, and treat him either as a stranger or as her affianced lover.

Again, she wished to see Carver as to her financial position. By the will she had been left certain moneys and the Red House; but she also, as she understood, possessed an income of five hundred pounds, which came to her from her parents, and once or twice Mr. Edermont had informed her that she was entitled to so much; but he stated also that he was saving it up for her against the time she came of age. As Dora was now twenty-one, she expected that the accumulations would be considerable. Making allowance for the amounts given to her at various times, she concluded that she was entitled to close on eight thousand pounds. If this were so—as she could ascertain from Mr. Carver—it was her intention to change her mode of life should Allen prove obstinate. "I shall give up the Red House and the two hundred a year," thought Dora, making her plans, "and after investing my eight thousand pounds with the aid of Mr. Carver, I shall go to London. I cannot live any longer in the company of that odious creature," for so she termed the learned Joad. "And if Allen is resolved to break off the engagement, there is nothing to keep me here. Mr. Edermont is dead; Allen, for some reason, is estranged; and I am all alone. I shall take my life in my own hands, and go to London."

It never entered her head to earn the reward. She was completely ignorant as to how her late guardian had come to so untimely an end. Lady Burville might have explained, but after the crime she had gone to London, and one did not know where to find her; Mr. Pallant might have given a hint, but he had left Hernwood Hall also. Dora saw no way of solving the mystery; and even if she did conjecture the truth she scarcely felt herself called upon to revenge the death of Mr. Edermont by discovering the assassin. She did not want the reward, and she had not sufficient regard for the dead man's memory to devote herself to so difficult a task.

Mr. Carver lived and worked in a dusty, dingy, dreary house, near Mercery Lane. His rooms were above—he was a bachelor, dry and crusty—and his offices below. Two clerks as lean as their master, worked in the dismal outer office; and in the inner apartmen, the window of which looked on to a mews, Mr. Carver sat all day, and often far into the night. The appearance of so charming and blooming a woman as Dora quite lighted up the musty-fusty den. Her fresh beauty had little effect upon Carver, who regarded women as the root of all evil. The generally-accepted root of all evil is money—this he approved of and hoarded; but women—he could not bear them save in the light of clients. And then they gave him endless trouble.

"Mr. Carver," said Dora, facing the saturnine lawyer on the other side of the table, "I have called to see you about my financial position. I was, as you know, a ward of Mr. Edermont's." Carver nodded. "And he has left me the Red House and two hundred a year." Mr. Carver nodded again. "But what about my income of five hundred a year?"

"What five hundred a year?" said Carver grimly.

"The income which was left me by my parents."

"I was not aware that any income had been left to you by your parents, nor for the matter of that—if you will excuse me—was I aware that you had any parents."

"What do you mean, sir?" asked Dora, sitting up very straight.

"Why," said the lawyer meditatively, "it is not hard for you to gather my meaning. I never saw your parents—I never heard mention of them. All I know is that my late client arrived here with you, and shortly after his arrival purchased the Red House. You were then a year old, and as twenty years have now elapsed, it makes you twenty-one," added Mr. Carver in parenthesis. "My late client said that you were an orphan, Carew by name, whom he intended to bring up; but as to parents, or history, or income—I know nothing about them, absolutely nothing."

"But Mr. Edermont assured me that I had five hundred a year of my own," stammered Dora, taken aback by this plain speaking. "He handed me money from time to time, and stated frequently that he was saving the rest of the income to give me when I came of age. If this is so, I ought to be entitled to at least eight thousand pounds."

"I congratulate you on your logical arguments, and on your business capabilities," said Carver with grave irony, "but I am afraid that you are mistaken, or else that the late Mr. Edermont deceived you wilfully—a thing which I can hardly believe. I know all the details of my late client's monetary affairs. As I said before, I purchased for him the Red House freehold some twenty years ago—shortly after his arrival in the neighborhood. The two hundred per annum which you inherit under the will, is the rental of three farms, which I purchased at a later period for him. The silver, furniture and pictures, which you also inherit, he brought with him from his last dwelling house. Finally, Miss Carew," added the lawyer, with the air of a man who is making a satisfactory statement, "I know precisely how he invested that fifty thousand pounds, which, by the will, has been so foolishly offered as a reward for the discovery of the murderer of the testator. All these matters I can explain and prove, but as regards your supposititious income of five hundred pounds, I know nothing. There are," concluded Mr. Carver calmly, "neither letters, nor scrip, nor documents of any kind whatsoever among the papers of my late client, which can in the least substantiate your statement, or even hint at the possibility of such a thing."

Dora listened to this long speech in silent amazement. She had never contemplated the possibility of such a deception—for now it seemed plainly a deception. Why Edermont should have told so many lies, and fostered in her a belief that she was independent as regards pecuniary matters, she could not understand. Carver waited for her to argue the matter, but Dora made no attempt to do this. The lawyer's explanation was so clear and decisive that she saw no reason to dobut his honesty. Besides, he had been always well disposed towards her, and no motive could exist to induce him to deceive her.

"Then I am penniless?" she murmured in dismay. "Mr. Edermont deceived me."

"Apparently he did deceive you," assented Mr. Carew, placing the tips of his fingers together; "but if you will permit me to remind you, Miss Carew, you are not penniless."

"I have a roof to cover me, and 200 a year," said Dora bitterly. "True enough, Mr. Carver. But such a legacy is saddled with the constant companionship of Mr. Joad."

"He is scarcely a pleasant companion for a young lady I grant, Miss Carew, but if you permit him to potter about the library and garden, I hardly think that he will trouble you much. These book worms, dry-as-dust scholars, are so wrapped up in their books, that they rarely deign to notice mundane affairs, or the presence of youth and beauty."

Dora had her own opinion as to Mr. Joad's blindness in this direction; but as the subject was not pertinent to the matter under discussion, she made no remark on Carver's speech. After a few moment's thought, she looked earnestly at the lawyer.

"You are not deceiving me, Mr. Carver?" she asked imploringly.

"I deceive no one, Miss Carew," he replied stiffly. "If you doubt my integrity, you can consult any solicitor you think fit, and send him to me. I can prove all my statements by means of documents signed by my late client."

"It is very hard to be so deceived, Mr. Carver."

"I grant it, I grant it," said Carver hastily; "but if you wish to be rich, I can only remind you that £50,000 is waiting for the discoverer of my late client's assassin."

"I wonder you do not earn it yourself," said Dora, rising to take her leave.

"I would willingly do so, Miss Carew, but unfortunately my knowledge of Mr. Edermont's past is confined to dry business details. I do not know the romance of his life," added Carver with emphasis. "And, from the romance, whatever it was, this present trouble springs."

"Do you mean a love romance?"

Carver shrugged his shoulders. "Why not?" he said, in his dryest tone. "With all due respect to you, Miss Carew, I believe that a woman is to be found at the bottom of everything. Trace back Mr. Edermont's life to his period of romance, and you will find a woman. Find that woman, Miss Carew; learn her story, and her influence on your late guardian. Then I'll guarantee you will discover the assassin of the Red House."

Dora said nothing, but hastily took leave. But once outside, and Carver's words recurred to her. They seemed to fit in with her suspicions of Lady Burville.

CHAPTER X.—DR. SCOTT IS STILL OBSTINATE.

Having failed with the grim lawyer, Dora resolved to see Allen. She felt singularly lonely and longed to have some person to advise her. That should have been Allen's office; but after his cruel behavior, Dora could scarcely bring herself to consult him. Yet it was imperative she should do so. She was an orphan, and had been kept so secluded by the selfishness of Mr. Edermont that she had not a friend in the world. If Allen failed her, the poor girl felt she would not know what to do, or who to consult. He must love her, notwithstanding his conduct, she thought; and perhaps if she told him how lonely she was, how unhappy, how greatly in need of his counsel, he might soften towards her. As Dora was naturally a haughty and self-reliant young woman, it may be guessed how isolated she felt when she so far unbent her pride as to turn for sympathy and consolation to the man who had scorned her. But after all she was only a woman, and subject to the weakness of her sex.

It was with slow and hesitating steps that she sought the house of her lover. She was well aware that she would find him at home at this hour; and the thought that she would soon see him face to face brought the blood to her cheeks. Pausing at the door, she twice or thrice resolved to go away; but the memory of her isolation, of her need of sympathy, confirmed her original intention. She rang the bell, and the door was opened by Mrs. Tice, who changed color at the sight of the girl.

"Deary me, Miss Carew!" she said in some confusion; "I had no idea it was you. Is it the doctor you wish to see?"

"Yes, Mrs. Tice. Is he within?"

"He is, my dear young lady. Come into the sitting-room, miss, and I'll inquire if Mr. Allen will see you."

Left alone in the room, Dora sank into a chair. The ceremony with which she had been received; the obvious confusion of Mrs. Tice, touched her painfully. She wondered what could be the reason of such things. They made her only the more determined to see Allen, and demand an explanation. But he had refused her once before; it was probable he would do so again. She felt her helpless condition keenly at this moment.

While she was thus taken up with these sad thoughts, she heard a firm step approach the door; it opened, and Allen stood before her. He seemed even more haggard and worn than the last time she had seen him. His shoulders were bent, his eyes lacked fire; altogether the man looked so thoroughly ill, so consumed by trouble and vexation of spirit, that Dora involuntarily took a step forward out of sheer sympathy. Then she recollected his conduct, and stopped short. They both looked steadily at one another.

"Why have you come to see me?" said Allen wearily. "It can do no good. I can explain nothing."

"Allen, you loved me once."

"I love you still!" he responded hastily. "I shall always love you."

"Words, words, words!" said Dora, after the manner of Hamlet. "Your actions prove otherwise. Now listen to me, Allen. I have come to you for advice."

"I am the worst person in the world to give it to you," replied Scott with cruel emphasis on the last words. "But if you wish it, I will do so."

"I do wish it, Allen. I am an orphan. I have few acquaintances, and no friends. My guardian is dead, and in all the world there is no living soul who cares about me."

"Dora!" he cried in a tone of agony; "how can you speak so! I care; I would rather die than see you suffer."

"I do not wish you to die," answered the girl with some bitterness; "it is so easy to say so—so difficult, so difficult to do. No, Allen; I wish you to live and help me. Let me put my position before you. My guardian told me that I had five hundred a year. He deceived me; I inherited nothing from my parents."

"Who told you this, Dora?"

"Mr. Carver, the lawyer. For some reason Mr. Edermont lied to me; and confirmed his lie by paying me certain moneys, which he said came from my inherited income. I hear now that I am a pauper. But for his bequest of two hundred a year and the freehold of the Red House, I should be a beggar."

"I cannot understand his reason for deceiving you," said Allen, drawing a long breath; "but at all events, he has made some reparation by leaving you enough to live on. You will always have a home at the Red House."

"You do not know the conditions of the will," was Dora's reply. "I have to live at the Red House; I have to permit Mr. Joad to carry on his former life, which means that I must see him daily, and I hate the man," added Dora fervently; "I loathed him; and now that Mr. Edermont is dead, I do not know to what lengths his audacity may carry him."

"What do you mean?" demanded Allen frowning.

"I mean that Joad admires me."

"Admires you?" The young man stepped forward, and clenched his fists. "Impossible that he should dare!"

"Oh, trust a woman's instinct in such matter, Allen! Yes, Mr. Joad admires me, and I believe he will soon put his admiration into words."

"If he does, I'll thrash him within an inch of his life!"

"As my affianced husband you no doubt have the right," replied Dora steadily; "but have you the will? You say you love me, yet—"

"I do love you," he burst out; "and it is because of my love for you that I keep silent. On that fatal day, Edermont, beside himself with terror, betrayed to me a secret he had better have kept hidden. That secret parts us for ever. I dare not marry you."

"You dare not? What secret can have the power to make you say such words?"

"If I told you that, I should tell you all," replied Allen sullenly, "do not try me beyond my strength, Dora. If you suffer, I suffer also. For your own sake I keep silent, and I love you too dearly to inflict unnecessary pain."

"What you might inflict can be no worse than what you have inflicted," said Dora bitterly. "I see it is useless to ask you to confide in me. But one word—has this secret to do with Mr. Edermont's death?"

Allen hesitated, then turning away his head: "I cannot answer you," he said resolutely.

"Oh!" said Dora in a taunting tone; "then you know something about his death!"

"I know nothing!" replied Allen with a white face.

"Yes, you do. Your refusal to explain shows me that the secret has to do with the murder. Perhaps Mr. Edermont told you the name of the person he was afraid of. Well, that person perhaps carried out his wicked purpose."

"Why do you say perhaps?" asked Allen suddenly. "You seem to be doubtful."

"Because a day or two before the crime was committed Mr. Pallant called on my guardian. What he told him relieved him of the fear of assassination. Therefore I do not know if Mr. Edermont's enemy killed him."

"Allen jumped up and looked eagerly at the girl. "Did Pallant say that the person whom Mr. Edermont feared was—was dead?"

"I cannot answer you that. Mr. Edermont only said that his nightmare was at an end. I presume from such a speech that he felt there was no more danger. Unfortunately he was murdered shortly afterwards, so that his hopes were vain. But you apparently know all about this person whom my guardian feared. What is his name?"

"I can't tell you, Dora," said Allen with a groan.

"Oh, I do not want you to tell me," she replied scornfully; "but tell the authorities. No doubt you will be rewarded with fifty thousand pounds—blood money."

"Dora! How can you speak like this to me?"

"How else do you wish me to speak?" she retorted fiercely. "Do you think that I have water in my veins, to put up with your neglect in silence?"

"It is for your own good."

"You should permit me to be the best judge of that, Allen. My brain is in confusion from the event of last week. I have suffered indescribably. With Lady Burville and her fainting in church came disaster. That woman caused a breach between us—"

"No, no! Lady Burville has nothing to do with my secret."

"Will you deny that her name was mentioned several times between you and Mr. Edermont?"

"No, I will not deny it," he returned doggedly. "All the same, she has nothing to do with the matter."

"So you say, for the preservation of your secret," said Dora disdainfully; "but I believe that she has everything to do with the matter. And what is more," continued the girl, raising her voice, "I feel assured that indirectly she caused the death of my guardian."

Allen turned even paler than before. "I assure you such is not the case, Dora."

"I decline to take your word for it. I will only believe the evidence of my own senses, of my own researches."

"Your own researches?"

"Yes; I intend to find out this secret which is a bar to our marriage. To do so I must solve the mystery of Mr. Edermont's death."

"I warn you not to do so!" cried Allen, breathing heavily; "you are playing with fire!"

"I'll take the risk of that—if risk there is, Allen," she said, placing her hands on his shoulders, "you laughed at my premonition of evil, when I spoke to you of Lady Burville. You see I was right. Now I have a premonition of good. My researches will mend the breach between us, and bring about our marriage."

"Impossible! and, moreover," he hesitated, "can you love me after the cruel way in which I have been forced to behave to you?"

"Yes. You mention the poison and the antidote at once. You have been cruel, but you have been forced, as I truly believe, to do so. When I discover that force, I shall learn the bar to our marriage. If so, it can be removed."

"I am afraid not," he replied, shaking his head.

"In the meantime," she continued, as though she had not heard him, "as I am a pauper, I must remain at the Red House. But I refuse to do so in the company of that creature Joad, unless I have a companion. Will you let Mrs. Tice come and stay with me for a few weeks?"

"If Mrs. Tice will come, I shall be delighted that you should have her."

"Very good, Allen." She rose from her chair. "Now we understand one another. When I know the truth, I shall come and see you again. Till then we must be strangers."

"I suppose so," said Scott gloomily; "but I warn you, the danger is great when you know the truth—"

"Well, what will be the result?"

Allen Scott looked at her pityingly. "Your life will be ruined, as mine has been," she said.

Dora walked towards the window with a weary sigh. "It is ruined already; I do not see how it can be much worse. I have been deceived as regards my pecuniary position; I am threatened with the attention of that odious creature. It is all very terrible."

Allen groaned. "I wish I could give you hope, Dora, but I cannot. I see nothing in the future but pain, and separation, and misery."

"Oh, I don't know," replied Dora with a hard laugh. "Since you can give me up so easily, I have no doubt that you will speedily console yourself for my loss. You will be married in a few years."

"Never! If I do not marry you—and that is impossible—I shall marry no other woman."

"So you say; but I know what men are."

"Not from experience."

"I don't think a woman needs experience to divine the nature of the other sex," said Dora loftily, with all the brave self-defiance of youth; "our instinct teaches us what you are and how you will act. I can't expect you to be true to a phantom all your life."

"Phantom! You are flesh and blood, my dear."

"Yes; but I mean that should I fail to discover this secret, or should you persist in treating me as a child, we must part, and never see one another again. I will then be nothing to you but a phantom—a memory. No man can remain true to a memory."

"Strange as it may appear to you, Dora, there have been men thus faithful, and I swear—"

"Do not swear fidelity. You will only perjure yourself in after years. But it is no use discussing such things, my dear," she continued more cheerfully. "I must return home."

"Will you come back and see me again?"

"If I have occasion to, I shall do so. I do not intend to part from you until all mysteries are made plain. It shall be my business to make them so."

"A hopeless task," sighed Allen, as he accompanied her to the door. "I shall send Mrs. Tice over to you in the morning."

"Thank you. Do you know that Mrs. Tice was once acquainted with my guardian?"

"Yes; she said something about it," he murmured, turning away his head; "she knows something."

"I am convinced of that. She knows the celebrated past of Mr. Edermont, about which so much has been said. I would not be surprised if she knew the contents of that stolen manuscript."

"I dare say, but she may not know everything."

"She knows more than you give her credit for," said Dora dryly. "For instance; when you returned from London, I dare say she knew why you had gone there."

"Yes; that's true enough."

"And she knew why you quarreled with my guardian."

"She did. What of that?"

"Only this," said Miss Carew triumphantly; "Mr. Carver said that he believed the past whence this present trouble arose was connected with a woman in love with Mr. Edermont. For all I know, that woman may be—Mrs. Tice."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Question Bureau.

RULES.—1.—Real name and address must be written with every question. 2.—Only one question at a time. 3.—Don't ask for addresses of persons, or firms, nor where to buy or sell anything, for such answers are free advertising. 4.—Don't ask about the reliability of any person or firm. 5.—We reserve the right to reject any question whose answer would not be of general interest; and will answer no mathematical problems, questions of law, etc. 6.—No answers by mail.

Winnebago Reservation.

Mr. S. B. Robinson, of Washington, Tenn., has our thanks for the following excellent reply to a recent query:

"Replying to the inquiry of H. C. Kenesaw, Neb., in last issue, will say that President Arthur issued a proclamation, just before the close of his term, opening to settlement the tract known as the Winnebago Indian reservation, South Dakota. The tract thus opened to settlement was dotted with 'claim-shacks' in less than ten days; but before a plat of the land could be placed on file in the land offices, the proclamation was recalled by President Cleveland, in one of his first official acts. During the summer of 1884 Congress took steps to reimburse the settlers thus dispossessed, and a census was ordered of the white settlement on the reservation for this purpose, but with little result, as President Cleveland's summons was generally obeyed. The tract embraced about twenty townships, or 12,800 acres. I was at that time a resident of Hyde county, South Dakota, and knew of the particulars. I can vouch for the correctness of the answer, being in company with the government census enumerator at the time."

Ten Largest Cities.

"Name the ten largest cities of the world, according to the latest estimation and longest river."—J. S. S., Columbus, Kan.

Here is the list, giving the population and the year in which the census was taken:

City.	Census Year.	Population
London	1891	4,231,431
Paris	1891	2,447,957
Berlin	1895	1,677,351
Canton	estimated	1,600,000
New York	1890	1,515,301
Vienna	1891	1,364,548
Tokio	1893	1,214,113
Chicago	1890	1,099,850
St. Petersburg	1892	1,035,439
Philadelphia	1890	1,046,964

The longest river is the Mississippi-Missouri.

Riparian Rights.

Please inform me whether a person claiming a certain number of feet fronting on the river can fill it up or build a dock for his own use."—R. S., Toledo

The United States government has laid down the dock-line in Toledo harbor, which is the Maumee river. Any one owning land running to the river has the right to fill in or build a dock, but he must not go beyond the dock-line established by the government. The United States engineer in charge can give you the location of the line with regard to your property.

Silver Dollars Abroad.

"Please tell me the circulating value of a silver dollar of the United States in foreign countries?"—O. C. B., Quaker City, O.

American silver dollars do not circulate abroad, any more than French 5-franc pieces circulate here in the United States. In any country, the coins of foreign nations are taken only at their bullion value. If an American owed $1,000 in Europe, and wished to pay it in silver dollars, he would have to send nearly 2,000 of them over to discharge the debt.

Henry M. Stanley.

"Please tell me whether Henry M. Stanley had negro blood transfused into his veins before going to Africa. Is it true he is turning black?"—A. W., Mt. Vernon, Ill.

No, Mr. Stanley never had negro blood transfused into his veins. What ever put that idea into your head? And there is absolutely no proof that the transfusion of negro blood into the circulation of a white man would change the color of his skin in the least.

Mr. Stanley, like all other white African explorers, returned to Europe with his skin bronzed by exposure to the African sun. This gradually goes away, however, on return to a temperate climate. Mr. Stanley is not "turning black" in the sense you mean.

True Bimetallism.

"Have we genuine bimetallism for our money system now? If so, what would you call it if we had free and unlimited coinage of both gold and silver at the ratio of 16 to 1? If we do not have bimetallism now, what must be done to bring it about?"—A. W. G., Artman, Colo.

No, we have not genuine bimetallism now, nor has any other nation on the globe.

Mexico has free and unlimited coinage of both gold and silver at a fraction more than 16 to 1. The result is, no gold is brought for coinage, no gold coin is in circulation, and she has silver monometallism. We would have the same thing under free coinage at 16 to 1.

No country in the world that allows free coinage of silver has any gold in circulation. Every gold standard country has large quantities of silver in circulation, as we have. The United States has a larger volume of silver money in circulation, in proportion to the gold in circulation, than any other country.

The value of coin comes from the market value of the bullion in it. The only way to have true bimetallism is to have as much silver bullion in a silver dollar as will cost a dollar in gold. At 16 to 1, there is only about a half dollar's worth of silver in a silver dollar.

A Populist Dodge.

"In an argument with a silver advocate, he said if we would take the negro vote out of the Republican party, they would have elected Bryan. I retorted that if he would take them out of his party, they would have had a considerably less vote. Have you any data as to how the colored people voted?"—W. E. J., Benbow, Mo.

"Our Popocrat brethren here claim that Bryan carried the white vote of the United States in the late election by 1,555,000 majority. Is there any way of finding out?"—I. V. C., Makanda, Ill.

This is simply a Populist lie. The man who utters it certainly knows it is false, for the reason that there is no record kept of the color of voters at an election, and it is utterly impossible for any one to tell how many negroes voted at the late election, or how many of them voted for McKinley, or how many for Bryan. Can you not see this?

Another thing: A negro has just as good a right to vote as a white man; and we doubt if the negro vote was ever as ignorantly misled by demagogues as the mass of those who voted for Bryan were misled.

Old Coins.

"I saw in the Blade some time ago that 8-cent pieces, of the dates 1863 to 1869 inclusive, are worth 40 cents each. Please tell me who pays that price for them."—G. B., Prairie Center, Kan.

Yes, 3-cent silver pieces, of dates from 1863 to 1869 inclusive, are worth 40 cents each, if in good condition. We can not publish the addresses of coin dealers, because that would give them a valuable advertisement free; and if they wish to reach Blade readers, they must advertise in its columns, and pay for it. For the same reason, we can not send such addresses privately by mail.

V. B. P., Spencerville, O.: There is no premium offered on the $5 gold piece of 1836. That of 1801 is worth $7; that of 1815 is worth $20, and those of 1822 and 1828 are worth $6.50 each.

I have a $10 gold piece, made in 1848. Is it worth more than its face value as a curiosity?"—F. M. S., Mulhall, Okla.

There is no premium on the $10 gold piece of 1848. The only ones that bear a high premium are those of 1802 and of 1838, which are worth $11.50 each.

"I live on a stream emptying into White river, some twenty miles from my home. Just after a big overflow of our little stream, my little boy found a Spanish coin in a sand bar near my place. The coin was made in 1805. I am aware that there is a premium offered for such money. Please tell me the value of such money, and how it may have come there."—J. H. G., Noble, Mo.

As the coin is so recent in date, it was probably lost by some Indian who had obtained it in trade with the Mexicans; or by some white man, for, up to about 1857, Spanish and Mexican silver coins were much more common than even American silver coins. We have no idea whether it bears a premium or not, as we do not attempt to keep the run of prices on rare coins except those of United States coinage.

Annexing Cuba.

E. A., Inwood, Iowa: We must decline to take space to give points for debates pro and con on any question. If we did it, we would have to fill a page or two of the Blade every week. Cuba should not be annexed to the United States, nor should we have anything to do with controlling its government. Its people are mixed. The pure whites are in the minority, and they are Spaniards, or of Spanish descent. There are many negroes, and a large proportion are mixed negro and Spanish. They are all bigoted Catholics, and by no means the material of which to make American citizens. They should be independent, but not a part of the United States, nor under our control.

Killing Trees.

The friends who have kindly replied to a recent inquiry in this column will accept our thanks. The replies are:

"In the Bureau of the Weekly Blade of January 14, I noticed an inquiry how to kill trees without ringing. Remove the earth from a large root, bore an inch hole past the center, and fill with salt. In a year or two the tree will die. After the salt is put in, the hole must be plugged and the dirt thrown back over it."—H. J., Lancaster, Wis.

"By way of reply to W. R. O., Bay City, Mich., in reference to killing trees without ringing or cutting them: Bore a two-inch hole well through the heart of the tree. If trees are small, the hole need not be so large—an inch or inch and a half will do. Then fill the hole well with salt, and drive in a plug to exclude all air. I first had an introduction to this remedy about 21 years ago, and have known it to be tried by different persons repeatedly since then, and have never yet known it to fail. But remember the hole must be bored clean through the heart of the tree, the plug to exclude air, snow and rain, and the work to be done before the sap begins to rise in spring."—H. L. K., Astoria, Ill.

R. A. B., Tiskilwa, Ill., gives the same remedy, and says there will be no bother from sprouts.

"To kill a tree standing, bore a hole with an inch auger, on a slant downwards to the heart of the tree, put in an ounce of sulphuric acid, and plug it up. It will die and not sprout up from the roots."—E. R., Brandon, Wis.

In using sulphuric acid, be very careful not to allow the least particle to get on the flesh or on the clothes. It will destroy the flesh, making a terrible sore, and eat clothing full of holes.

The "Lady Elgin."

J. L. P., Ashtabula, O., has our thanks for the following information:

"In the Question Bureau of Weekly Blade of January 21, you speak of the steamer Lady Elgin as being burned on Lake Michigan back in the '70's. According to my recollection of the loss of the Lady Elgin, she collided with the schooner Augusta, and was sunk. I do not recollect that there was a fire connected with the disaster. There was such a prejudice against the schooner in consequence of so many lives being lost, that her name was afterwards changed to the Col. Cook. As I have followed the lakes most of my life, I have often been in company with the schooner, both before and since her name was changed."

Cain's Wife.

"Cain, the son of Adam and Eve, had a wife. Can you tell me where he got her?"—M. F., Ellsworth, Iowa.

Nobody knows any more than you do about it. You have, in Genesis, the only statement made on the subject. There may have been other races of men on earth besides Adam and his family; or Cain's wife may have been his own sister, on the supposition that Adam and Eve had daughters who are not mentioned in Genesis. But all this is mere conjecture. We are not told who his wife was, and therefore we may well dismiss the question as one which can not be and never will be answered.

The Senatorial Junta.

"In an editorial in Weekly Blade of January 21, headed 'Silver Highwaymen,' you use the word 'conspiracy' in reference to the action of the silver men in the Senate. Do facts entirely justify the use of such terms in reference to men supposed to have honest convictions, and at least as much straightforwardness of character as the average politician of any party? I am not a silver man, but I don't like to have names called without the knowledge that it is right."—J. R. N., Berwyn, I. T.

The question as to whether the silver Senators have "honest convictions," or are "straightforward in character," has nothing to do with the matter. Threats were made, even before Congress met, that the silver junta would refuse to allow even the appropriation bills to pass, if a free silver amendment were not added. They withdrew from this extreme position, but the threat to which we referred was, that the tariff bill shall not pass without a free silver amendment. As the House would not pass such a bill, and these Senators knew it, they would simply be obstructing wise and needed legislation, which otherwise would pass, as a matter of revenge. That is not the proper attitude for any member of any legislative body. Should they do this, they would do exactly as highwaymen do when they call upon travelers to "stand and deliver" at the muzzle of a pistol. An agreement to do such a thing is a conspiracy. In fact, we think The Blade was mild in its characterization of this threat.

Washington's Politics.

"Explain through your columns the politics of George Washington. Was he what is known as a Republican or Democrat? And explain, from Washington to the present day, how the parties changed their names, and why?"—M., Cherryville, N. C.

It would take this entire paper to give a history of the political parties of this country. At the time the present constitution was framed, those who favored its adoption were called Federalists, and those opposed to it anti-Federalists. The looseness of the union of the colonies under the articles of Confederation unsettled business, and all intelligent men favored a stronger union. Hence, on the adoption of the constitution, the Federal party went into power, with Washington at its head. The Federal party soon came to stand for a protective tariff, the building of a navy, the maintenance of an army, the chartering of the United States bank. The opposition to these measures led to the formation of the Republican party, with Jefferson, Madison and Randolph at its head. It elected Jefferson President in 1800. The Federal party gradually declined in power, owing to its opposition to the war of 1812, and its supporters joined the National Republicans, which subsequently became the Whig party.

The Republican party, afterward called the Democratic-Republican party, split into two factions during John Quincy Adams's Presidency. One section favored a national bank, internal improvements and a protective tariff. Henry Clay became the leader of this faction, which formed a party called the National Republican.

The other faction was led by Andrew Jackson, and took the name of the Democratic party, which has maintained its existence to the present day.

The National Republican party changed its name to the Whig party, which won its first victory in the election of Harrison to the Presidency in 1840. The Democrats won in 1844, and the Whigs in 1848, electing Taylor. The slavery question now began to be an engrossing one, and the Whig party met a crushing defeat in 1852, when its platform declared the compromise of 1850 to be a "finality" on the slavery matter.

In 1854 the repeal of the Missouri compromise by the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska bill brought before the country the question whether slavery should be allowed to be extended into the territories of the United States. This led to the formation of the Republican party. Its first platform declared against the repeal of the Missouri compromise and against the extension of slavery, in favor of the admission of Kansas as a free state, of the building of a Pacific railroad, and of a protective tariff. Since then the Democrats and Republicans have been the two leading parties.

Ohio Congressmen.

"Who are the members of the United States Congress from Ohio at present?"—W. E. P., Quincy, O.

The Senators at present are John Sherman and Calvin S. Brice. Brice will be succeeded by J. B. Foraker on March 4. Sherman will go into the Cabinet at the same time, but his successor has not been appointed.

The Representatives are given below. The first column is the number of the Congressional district; the second the names of the Representatives in the present Congress; the third, the names of the Representatives in the next Congress, their terms beginning on March 4. The letters R. and D. refer to their politics—Republican or Democratic.

District.	54th Cong.	55th Cong.
1	Chas. P. Taft, R.	W. B. Shattuc, R.
2	J. H. Bromwell, R.	J. H. Bromwell, R.
3	Paul J. Sorg, D.	J. L. Brenner, D.
4	F. C. Layton, D.	G. A. Marshall, D.
5	F. B. Dewitt, R.	D. Meekison, D.
6	G. W. Hulick, R.	S. W. Brown, R.
7	G. W. Wilson, R.	W. L. Weaver, R.
8	L. M. Strong, R.	A. Lybrand, R.
9	J. H. Southard, R.	J. H. Southard, R.
10	L. J. Fenton, R.	L. J. Fenton, R.
11	C. H. Grosvenor, R.	C. H. Grosvenor, R.
12	D. K. Watson, R.	J. J. Lentz, D.
13	S. R. Harris, R.	J. A. Norton, D.
14	W. S. Kerr, R.	W. S. Kerr, R.
15	H. C. VanVoorhis, R.	H. C. VanVoorhis, R.
16	L. Danford, R.	L. Danford, R.
17	A. S. McClure, R.	J. A. McDowell, D.
18	R. W. Taylor, R.	R. W. Taylor, R.
19	S. A. Northway, R.	S. A. Northway, R.
20	C. B. Beach, R.	C. B. Beach, R.
21	T. E. Burton, R.	T. E. Burton, R.

Scrofula

Infests the blood of humanity. It appears in varied forms, but is forced to yield to Hood's Sarsaparilla, which purifies and vitalizes the blood and cures Scrofula, Salt Rheum, and all such diseases.

"In September, 1894, I made a misstep and injured my ankle. Soon after

A Sore

two inches across formed and in walking to favor it I sprained my ankle. The sore became worse; I could not put my boot on and I thought I should have to give up at every step. I had to stop work. I read of a cure of a similar case by Hood's Sarsaparilla and concluded to try it. Before I had taken all of two bottles the sore healed and the swelling went down. My

Foot

is now well and I have been greatly benefited otherwise; have increased in weight and am in better health. I cannot praise Hood's Sarsaparilla enough." MRS. H. BLAKE, South Berwick, Maine.

This and similar cures prove that

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is the One True Blood Purifier. All druggists. $1. Prepared only by C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.

Hood's Pills cure Liver Ills; easy to take, easy to operate. 25c.

Mr. Carnegie's Name.

"What is the correct pronunciation of the name Carnegie?"—P. M., Alto Pass, Ill.

It is pronounced Car-nay-gy; the g in the last syllable is hard, as in "get." The accent is on the second syllable.

United States Senators.

"There has been great interest here over the question of electing United States Senators by popular vote. Will you please give me the arguments for and against election in this manner?"—R. J. W., Aurora, Ill.

We know of no really good argument in favor of the change. Those who favor it think it would result in the selection of better men. We doubt it. There would be no guarantee that a state convention, in nominating a man for United States Senator, would make any wiser selection than a state legislature would do. The true remedy is in the hands of the people. That is, to send only men of high standing, unimpeachable honor, and incorruptible integrity, to the state legislature.

The change would be a very radical departure from the ideas which actuated the fathers of the republic when they framed the constitution. They made the congress to consist of two bodies. The men elected to one body were to represent the people; they are elected for only two years, so that the popular will shall speedily be shown in that body, the House of Representatives.

The other body, the Senate, does not represent the people of a state, but the state itself. They are chosen by the legislature, not by the people. They are given a term of six years, so that they may be more independent than members of the House. It is intended to make the Senate the safeguard against rash or ill-considered legislation, and the independence secured to the Senators is with that end in view.

We can see no good reason for changing the mode of election.

State Nicknames.

"Will you please publish in your question column the nicknames of all the states?"—G. L., Pittston, Pa.

There are only a few state nicknames which are in general use, or which are so fully recognized that they are understood by everybody. Some foolish people have endeavored to fasten nicknames on states which have none generally recognized—a practice which should be censured. The following list embraces all which are fully recognized:

California—Golden State.
Colorado—Centennial State, because it was admitted to the Union in 1876, the centennial year of the Declaration of Independence.
Connecticut—Land of Steady Habits, from the characteristics of the earlier inhabitants.
Delaware—The Blue Hen's Chicken.
Georgia—Sucker State.
Indiana—Hoosier State.
Iowa—Hawkeye State.
Kentucky—Dark and Bloody Ground—so called by the Indians from the many battles they fought there with one another.
Maine—Pine Tree State.
Massachusetts—Old Bay State.
Michigan—Wolverine State, Peninsular State.
Minnesota—North Star State.
New Hampshire—Old Granite State.
New York—Empire State.
North Carolina—Turpentine State.
Ohio—Buckeye State.
Pennsylvania—Keystone State.
Rhode Island—Little Rhody.
South Carolina—Palmetto State.
Texas—Lone Star State.
Vermont—Green Mountain State.
Virginia—Old Dominion.
West Virginia—Mountain State.
Wisconsin—Badger State.

The inhabitants of Arkansas should be called Arkansans.

Popocrat Fallacies.

"In your answer to the question, 'what are good banking assets?' in the Bureau, the word 'depreciation' occurs which the silverites claim is the key note, and ask, What is the cause of depreciation in values, and especially in land, and claim that it is caused by the striking down of one-half of our money metals—silver—causing an appreciation of money; also they ask what kind of bonds are meant, and what secured bonds? Also, they claim that cash purchasers should be easily found—even rivals anxious to purchase, if conditions were as they should be instead of as they absolutely are at the present time.

"They point sneeringly to the continual bank failures all over the country, caused, as they say, by depreciation in values—the best of securities—or, the appreciation of money by its scarcity by contraction from the hands of the masses, the centripetal tendency of money, etc., which they assert is all brought about as the result of the single standard domination of Wall street and Lombard street. What can we say in our defense? Please let us hear from you once more in regard to the matter."—F. B., Leveland, Colo.

You asked the question about banking assets, and we answered you—that real estate is not a good banking asset because it can not be quickly turned into money. This has always been true; it was true in 1862, when the national banking act was first passed; and so clearly was this understood, that the law then prohibited, and now prohibits, national banks from making loans on real estate security. The value of the land, its appreciation or depreciation, has nothing to do with the matter.

A bank borrows money and lends it. Its only profit comes from the fact that it loans at a somewhat higher rate than it borrows. We have a bank in mind, for instance, that pays 3 per cent on deposits, and loans money at 6 per cent—the difference 3 per cent, having to pay salaries, rent, light, fuel taxes, and other expenses; and whatever is in excess of that is profit.

Practically, a bank owes as much as borrowers owe it. Some of its deposits—those made by business men, who check against their deposits as they need money—are payable on demand; others at a fixed time. Hence it must arrange its loans so that it will always have enough money lying idle in its vaults to meet current demands. It can not loan on time in such a way that for two or three months no loans would be due, else it might run out of ready money, and be obliged to suspend, even though its assets exceed its debts. Hence the importance of having loans so secured that the money can be had when it is due. Loans secured by real estate mortgage are safe, so far as the ultimate payment of the loan is concerned; but they do not enable the bank to realize quickly. It takes too long for foreclosure proceedings.

Hence bank loans are secured in one of two ways: Either by the endorsement of solvent men, who become security for the payment; or by the putting up of stocks or bonds as security. This may be stock in a railway or a manufacturing establishment; or the bonds of a railroad, or a city, or a county. Your Popocratic friends seem to be ignorant of the most rudimentary knowledge of banking affairs, unfortunately.

Now, as to the fallacies they advance. Half our money was never "stricken down," for we never had, in actual operation, but one money standard. It was silver up to 1834, and gold from that time to the present. We never had actual bimetallism.

Second, we have more money per capita in the country now than we had in 1873, or at any time before that; so their reasoning falls to the ground.

The depreciation in values is not universal, nor is the depreciation to the same degree for all articles, as it would necessarily be if the silverite idea were correct. Look at wheat. It sold during June and into July at 54 and 55 cents a bushel in Toledo. It sold in November for 97 cents to $1 per bushel, and now is about 87 cents. If the silver idea were correct, this rise in price of over one-half would not have taken place. We have no room to discuss the various causes of low prices of certain staple articles; but the reasons are well understood by all intelligent business men, and have no relation to the volume of money.

Finally, the volume of money has no effect upon prices, unless the currency is inflated by inferior issues, such as irredeemable paper. Values then are really not affected; the prices are higher, measured in depreciated paper, but the coin price remains the same.

The depreciation in land values follows as a necessity from the low prices of staple crops. The latter are clearly due to the excess of supply over demand. If farming is not profitable, farm land is not so valuable, of course.

Lastly, free silver would not remedy any of these evils, real or imaginary.

Beet Sugar Industry.

"Will you please give us a recipe for making brown or white sugar from the sugar beet?"—G. H. H., Clear Lake. (What state? There are ten Clear Lake postoffices in the United States. Why can not our questioners be careful to send full name, postoffice and state with a question?)

"What would be the cost of the smallest beet sugar manufactory?"—W. P. S., Ashville, O.

In answer to the first query: Sugar from beets can not be made at home, as is sorghum molasses or maple sugar. It requires a large factory, with machinery, and a trained man to run it.

To the second: We are told that it is not profitable to erect a factory that costs less than $25,000. Perhaps you could get some positive information by addressing Superintendent beet sugar factory, Grand Island, Nebraska.

"Republican" and "Democrat."

"Please give the definitions of the words Republican and Democrat."—I. V. C., Makanda, Ill.

A democracy is a government by the people. The word is from the Greek "demos," the people, and "cratos," power—that is, the power is in the hands of the people.

A democracy is either simple or representative. In a simple democracy, all the people come together, each with one vote, and pass their own laws. This can only be done, however, when the number of people is very small. It would be impossible, for instance, for the one million of voters of Ohio to come together at Columbus, discuss and pass laws.

A representative democracy is a republic. That is, the people elect their agents or representatives, who are delegated the power of making laws.

Hence, the word "democrat" means one who is in favor of the people ruling; a republican one who is in favor of a republic. All people in the United States are both, of course. The words are used as party names, without reference to their original signification.

"Middle of the Road."

"What is the origin and meaning of the phrase, 'In the middle of the road?' I heard the phrase so much used in the recent Presidential campaign, and should like to know the origin."—R. B. T., Weston, Ore.

We have forgotten the place and time, but the phrase had its origin in a Populist convention two or three years ago. There was a quarrel over the platform, and one speaker exhorted his hearers not to waver from the original Populist platform promulgated at Ocala, but to stick to that, and thus "keep in the middle of the road"—diverging neither to the right nor to the left.

Effect of Recognition.

"I would like to know how the Cubans would be benefited if the United States would recognize Cuba as an independent nation?"—J. E., Allen, Kan.

To recognize Cuba as an independent nation would be of vast benefit morally to the insurgents. It would give them hope of victory, and enthuse them as nothing else could do. It would allow their ships to come openly into our ports, to buy arms and munitions of war, and give them a standing now denied them.

Bonds and Greenbacks.

"Were there any bonds issued during the civil war to procure greenbacks?"—N. W., Lane, Kan.

No bonds were issued for the sole purpose of procuring greenbacks, of course. Congress had power at any time to order a new issue of greenbacks, if greenbacks were desired. The trouble then was, there were too many greenbacks, and their value had depreciated. Bonds were issued to obtain money to carry on the war, so that the greenbacks would not depreciate still further.

Recent Literature.

Readers desiring any further information whatever about these volumes will please address the publishers, whose address is given in every case, and not inquire of The Blade. We do not deal in books.

Captive Memories by James Terry White. James T. White & Company, New York City.
The Nicaragua Canal and the Monroe Doctrine by Professor Lindley Miller Keasbey. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York City.
Boss and Other Dogs by Maria Louise Pool. Stone & Kimball, New York City.

A very pretty book, one especially adapted to a holiday or birthday gift is one entitled Captive Memories, a volume of verse especially devoted to the affections. The graceful dedication shows its purpose:

Another leaf in Life's mysterious Book
To-day is turned. O friend beloved I leave
With you these humble flowers to mark the page.
If haply they may give a perfume to
The plan which shall make fragrant all its leaves.

The author, James Terry White, has sung his songs in gentle, familiar tones which touch the heart, if they do not greatly kindle the imagination. "There is no mawkish sentimentality, no striving after effect; like cloud, shadow and sunlight, the verses are in turn, tender, grave or gay as suits the occasion." Here is a pretty one under Delight:

Simply a touch of the hand,
One little word;
Sunshine spread over the land;
Then sang a bird.

Sunshine may give place to rain,
Hope be deferred;
But through the heart's loss and pain,
Still sings the bird.

The setting of these quaint and touching little poems is very pretty. Besides the 40 full page Cupids—attractive little fellows—there is a pretty flower design accompanying each poem, and the whole is made up with fine taste and artistic feeling. Captive Memories is a very beautiful book, for this or any season.

A volume which, in certain ways, is very important at this time, is the one which is issued under the title of The Nicaragua Canal and the Monroe Doctrine. It is a political history of the whole subject of isthmus transit, in connection with this canal project which has for so long occupied the attention of the United States.

The author, Professor Lindley Miller Keasbey has, in the introduction, given a brief description of the several routes of interoceanic communication which have been considered. He says that it is now an open question as between the lock-canal through Nicaragua and the sea-level canal across Panama, with the balance of scientific opinion in favor of the former.

The work is finely written and with the text made clearer by maps, and illustrations, it is an exceedingly valuable addition to the literature upon the subject.

Evidently Maria Louise Pool likes dogs, for she has written a little volume devoted to stories about these animals, stories which have the charm of her peculiar gift in picture making with words. Boss and Other Dogs is the title but Boss seems the hero among them all.

The opening article in the current number of The Critic introduces to American readers Mr. Joseph Jacobs, a writer of considerable prominence in his own country, who has recently been visiting the United States, but whose visit the Lounger says, has been, for some unaccountable reason, scarcely noticed. He is the author of As Others Saw Him, which attracted considerable attention upon its appearance, without the author's name, a year or two ago. He is interested in the establishment of a college in Philadelphia for the education of the Jews and is the recognized leader in London of a circle of young men who are students of the history and literature of the Jews. His work in that direction has been considerable but it is in other things that he challenges our greatest interest.

He is well known as the editor of what may be called "world books," such as Esop's Fables; Arabian Nights, etc., to which he has given much careful study and has produced a complete history of them in the light of modern research.

The list of volumes which Mr. Jacobs has published has reached 48. He is an Australian by birth but was educated in England. The direction of his studies to Jewish history was given by George Eliot's Daniel Deronda.

That Affair Next Door by Anna Katharine Green, is a story with the usual characteristics of this author who excels in a mysterious plot which works gradually towards a perfect development. Of course there is in this a tragedy in which a woman is found dead and the object of the story is to trace the circumstances of her death. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York City.

With Lafayette at Yorktown, by James Otis is a new and delightful book for boys. The sub-title of this juvenile, one of the best of the many written by Mr. Otis, fully explains the theme: "A story of how two boys joined the Continental Army." The pictures of camp-life are carefully drawn. No action is introduced, either on the part of the two heroes or the more important personages who figure in the story, which is not taken from history, and the portrayal of Lafayette's character is thoroughly well-done. There is no lack of exciting incident which the youthful reader craves, but it is healthful excitement brimming with facts which every boy should be familiar with, and while the reader is following the adventures of Ben Jaffreys and Ned Allen he is acquiring a fund of historical lore which will remain in his memory long after that which he memorized from textbooks has been forgotten. A. L. Burt, Publisher, New York City.

McLeod of the Camerons, by Mr. Hamilton, opens with a scene upon the steamer going to Malta from England. The interest centers around the young wife of an English officer, who is going out to join her husband and one Captain McLeod who is the hero, or at least one of them. The story is very well written and will make an hour pass pleasantly. D. Appleton & Co., New York City.

Wrecked On Spider Island, by James Otis is a story for boys of not improbable adventure, abounding in stirring incidents, yet with nothing in the line of blood-and-thunder literature. It is purely a work of fiction, yet at the same time containing a moral which will not be lost upon the average reader. It is in Mr. Otis' usual vein of story-telling, and well worthy a place in the series of very acceptable juvenile stories issued in most attractive form by Mr. Burt. The successful ending of the journey serves to make as entertaining a story of sea-life as the most captious boy could desire. A. L. Burt, Publisher, New York City.

Boss Bart, Politician, by Joe Mitchell Chapple, author of The Minor Chord, etc., is a Western story of love and politics, published by F. Tennyson Neely, 114 Fifth avenue, New York.

Urban Dialogues, by Louis Evan Shipman, is a collection of clever dialogues full of wit and humor and portraying character admirably, some of which appear in this volume for the first time and others of which are reprinted from "Life" and "Leslie's Weekly." The binding is artistic and the excellent full page illustrations are by Charles Dana Gibsone. Published by Stone & Kimball, New York City.

The Rudiments of Civil Government, a full exposition of the government of Ohio, and an outline of the government of the United States, by J. F. Laning, has been received from The Laning Printing Co., of Norwalk, O.

There has been received in paper binding, Josepha, a tragical love story, by Guernard Mennier, from the publishing firm of G. W. Dillingham company, New York City.

Henriette Davidis' Practical Cook Book is recognized in Germany as being the standard authority in all matters pertaining to the culinary art. Its popularity and worth are evidenced by the fact that thirty-five editions have already been printed, and the demand for the book continues to be as great as at any time since its first appearance, because it is universally acknowledged as being the best and most practical of all cook books which have appeared in that country. The original book of Mrs. Davidis has been constantly revised and kept up to date with each successive edition. The American Davidis Cook Book will be found to meet every requirement anticipated in a practical, common sense handbook for the kitchen, and it will doubtless prove to be as popular and gain as many friends as its European predecessor. Published by C. N. Casper, Milwaukee, Wis.

In His Foster Sister, the author, Albert Ross, has produced a story of mystery, pure and simple, of the style which Gaborian has made famous with a murder as its base and a twenty years' search before the guilty person is apprehended. G. W. Dillingham company, New York City.

Mannie Brown, That School Girl, and Edward Kennedy, That College Boy, by Mildred Rutherford, is a pleasant story, pleasantly told, containing real experiences in school-girl and college-boy life. The Peter Paul company, Buffalo, New York.

—Prevent sickness and save doctor's bills at this season by keeping your blood rich and pure with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

EYE PROTECTORS.

A Necessity for Workmen in Many Modren Industries.

In certain industries where high temperatures are developed, particularly in foundries, glass factories, etc., protection to the eyes from the heat as well as from the glare of the light becomes imperative, and strict laws in all civilized countries make it the duty of employers to furnish their employes with the protective appliances necessary to that end. The new eye-protecting spectacles invented by Karl Merz of Frankfort-on-the-Main are probably the best apparatus of this kind. The frame is of aluminum, but is elastic and will fit any face. The glasses, and here is the improvement over all other protective spectacles, are set obliquely, thus giving the workman a correct optical field, while at the same time the strong light rays striking the glass are diverted or deflected from the eye proper.

TO PROTECT THE EYES.

THIS WILL INTEREST MANY.

F. W. PARKHURST, the Boston publisher, says that if any one who is afflicted with rheumatism in any form, or neuralgia, will send their address to him, at Box 1,501, Boston, Mass., he will direct them to a perfect cure. He has nothing to sell or give; only tells you how he was cured. Hundreds have tested it with success.

DRESS OF FAMOUS MEN.

A writer in an English weekly "reminisces" about certain eccentricities of costume affected by famous men, apropos of a dispatch which says that Mascagni, while working at his new Japanese opera, arrays himself in a flowing robe and turban.

Many writers, composers, painters and sculptors have believed that their flow of ideas was helped by the adoption of some peculiar style of dress. Victor Hugo, who was always bent on calling attention to his genius, startled the world at one time by taking as his model the figure of the "Creator" in Michael Angelo's frescoes.

Lamartine, with curious perversity, preferred to be known as a politician, architect, or financial authority, rather than as a poet, and used to dress, in accordance with these aspirations, in a tightly buttoned frock coat.

Buffon wrote his Natural History, from beginning to end, attired in full court dress, ruffles and frills, "fitly to sustain the dignity of the subject."

Dumas would probably have preferred to dispense with clothing altogether if he could have had his way. He used to "take off his coat and vest, unfasten his shirt collar, turn up his sleeves to the elbows and let down his braces" before beginning to write.

Wagner composed in his well-known fancy costume of black velvet, with a sort of Tam O'Shanter to match.

Beranger used to "get himself up" to look like an old concierge. It was his habit to wear a red rose in his buttonhole in order to draw attention to the fact of his not being decorated.

Those familiar with Paul de Kock could guess the nature of the novelist's work by a glance at his dress. When writing a comparatively serious chapter he always wore a frock coat of military cut and ornamented with frogs. If engaged on lighter work his costume consisted of a blue flannel dressing gown and elaborately embroidered smoking cap.

It is said of Scribe—by M. Earnest Legouve, the co-author of Adrienne Lecouvreur—that the famous playwright "failed to grasp his subject" unless he were fully dressed and "spick and span."

Hired for the Occasion.

"Just see that young fellow plunging through the solid crowd of shoppers! Who is that tall woman following so closely behind him?"

"That's Mrs. Skaggs and the young man is her nephew. She hires him to go shopping with her. He's the half-back in the college foot ball team. Whew! See him break through the line!"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

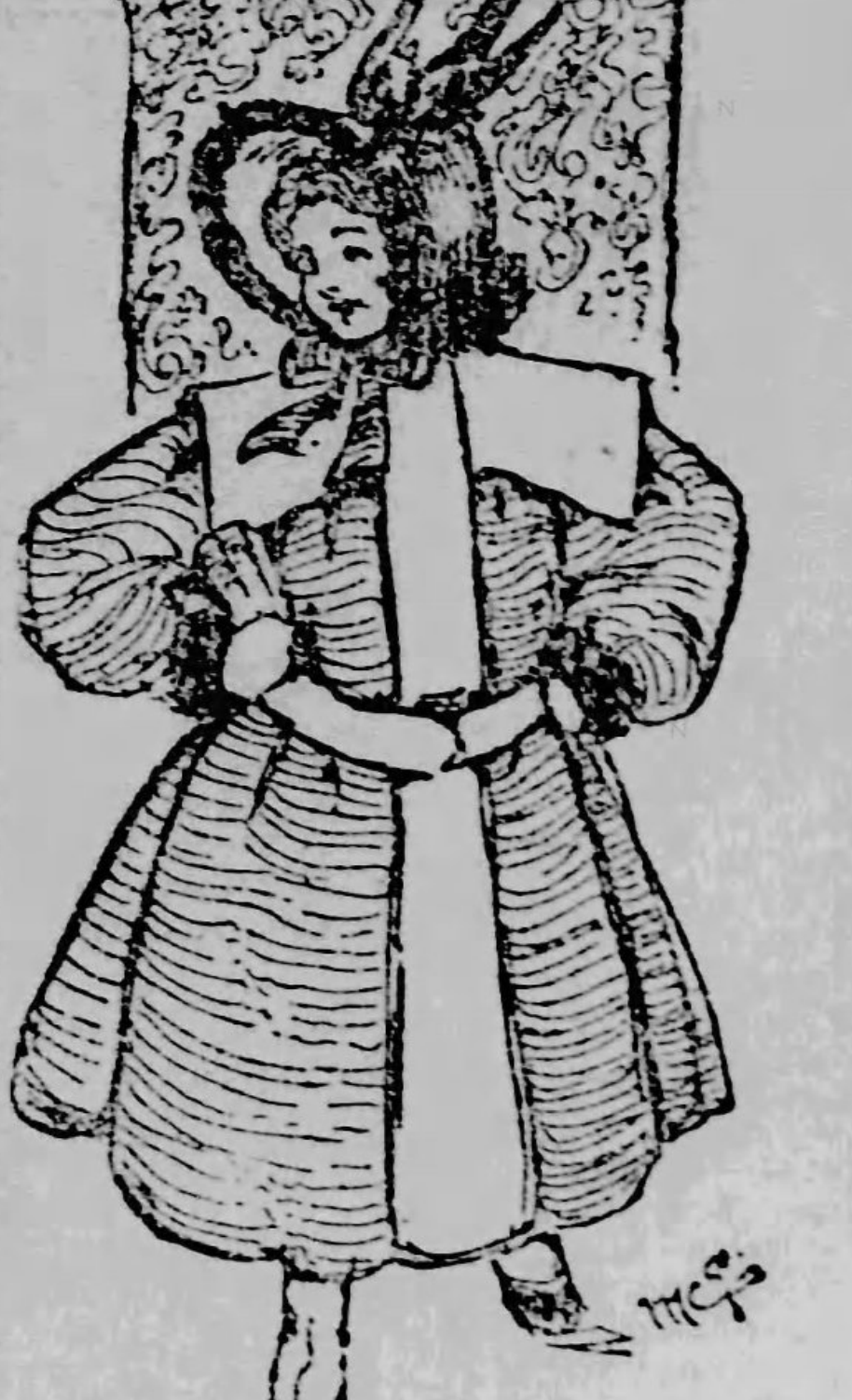
Sons and fathers, read Thos. Slater's offer on page 8.

FOR THE LITTLE TOT.

A Warm Cloak and Bonnet for Sunday School and "Extra-Day Wear."

Little girls of six or seven are fortunate this year in having provided for them a variety of pretty outdoor styles.

A pretty dress and coat combination for a child is of green corduroy. It has a deep sailor collar of pale old-rose broadcloth and a straight front of the same. It is belted at the waist line with a band of the broad cloth. The sleeves and neck are finished with a touch of sable.



FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL.

A Shaker bonnet can be worn with it of corduroy edged with sable and lined with old rose silk. A green parrot is perched jauntily on one side. The bonnet is tied under the chin with green moire ribbon.

One similar to this was worn by a little girl with golden-brown hair and brown eyes. She looked like a miniature of grandmamma painted forty years ago.

A KANSAS CITY DOCTOR

His Vital Healing Power Causing a Sensation—Many Marvelous Cures.

Special Telegram to The Blade.

Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 31, 1897.—The most intense interest prevails here. People are being restored to health by a system of healing that baffles the understanding of the wisest men. Dr. C. H. Carson, whose healing powers are creating such a sensation, resides here, and has cured many thousands of cases which were regarded as hopeless. His home and Temple of Health is located in the very heart of the city, corner of Twelfth and Washington streets.

Within a large inclosure, surrounded by an iron fence, can be seen a stately looking edifice, into which the people pass through an open gate and up a broad stairway into the building. The wonderful transformation to these people that takes place within can never be told in words. Many who are seen to enter leaning upon crutches or canes, or supported by the strong arm of a friend, come away leaving crutches or cane behind, while they walk briskly away without assistance, their faces beaming with perfect joy.

BIG ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVE.

It Will Haul Two Ordinary Trains Sixty-Two Miles an Hour.

A new electric locomotive of large dimensions, calculated to draw trains of double the weight of those attached to ordinary engines at a rate of 62 miles an hour, has been tried with success on the Western railroad of France line. The first experiments of this kind were made in 1893 between Havre and Beuzeville with an electric locomotive, which behaved well throughout the trial trip. Owing to the success of this machine the company's engineers constructed two larger locomotives, and it is one of these which has just been tested. It is 57 feet long and of 1,350 horse-power. In spite of their size they wear out the rails less than ordinary locomotives, as the weight is distributed on eight axles instead of four or five. They are safer than the others owing to their elastic character, which enables them to make curves with security at full speed. Great things are, in fact, expected from these contrivances, which, when perfected, will do 100 to 115 miles an hour.

Free to Our Readers.—The New Cure for Kidney and Bladder Diseases, Rheumatism, Etc.

As stated in our last issue the new botanical discovery, Alkavis, is proving a wonderful curative in all diseases caused by Uric acid in the blood, or disordered action of the Kidneys and urinary organs. The New York World publishes the remarkable case of Rev. A. C. Darling, minister of the gospel at North Constantia, New York, cured by Alkavis, when, as he says himself, he had lost faith in man and medicine, and was preparing himself for certain death. Similar testimony to this wonderful new remedy comes from others, including many ladies suffering from disorders peculiar to womanhood. The Church Kidney Cure Co., of No. 418 Fourth avenue, New York, who so far are its only importers, are so anxious to prove its value that for the sake of introduction they will send a free treatment of Alkavis prepaid by mail to every reader of The Blade who is a sufferer from any form of Kidney or Bladder Disorder, Bright's Disease, Rheumatism, Dropsy, Gravel, Pain in Back, Female Complaints, or other affliction due to improper action of the Kidneys or Urinary Organs. We advise all Sufferers to send their names and address to the company, and receive the Alkavis free. To prove its wonderful curative powers, it is sent to you entirely free.

His Grounds.

He was about as black as the traditional ace of spades, and two dusky damsels, each of whom claimed the right to call him husband, sat bolt upright in the court room and stared at the defendant.

"Yo'r honor," said the prisoner, "I want to apply for a change of venus in this case."

"On what ground?" inquired the court.

"I want a change of venus," repeated the defendant, "because one of dese women is prejudiced ag'in me."—Troy Times.

Perfectly Truthful.

Helen—So he has proposed at last! How did it happen?

Maude—I told him that I was going to be married.

Helen—Why, Maude!

Maude—Yes, and it aroused him instantly. He actually raved. And so I took pity on him and we are engaged.

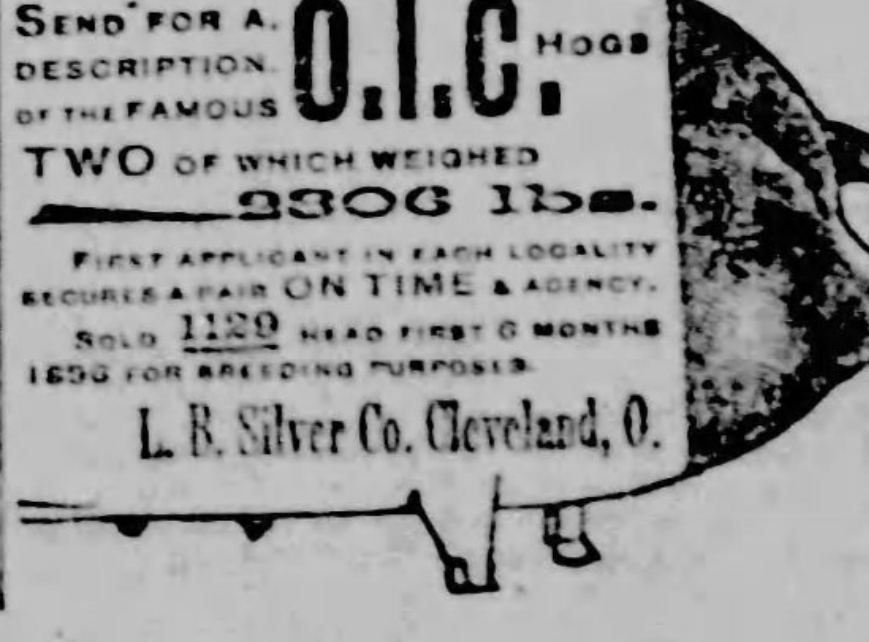
Helen—But you told him a fib.

Maude—Not at all. When I said I was going to be married, I meant to him.—Boston Transcript.

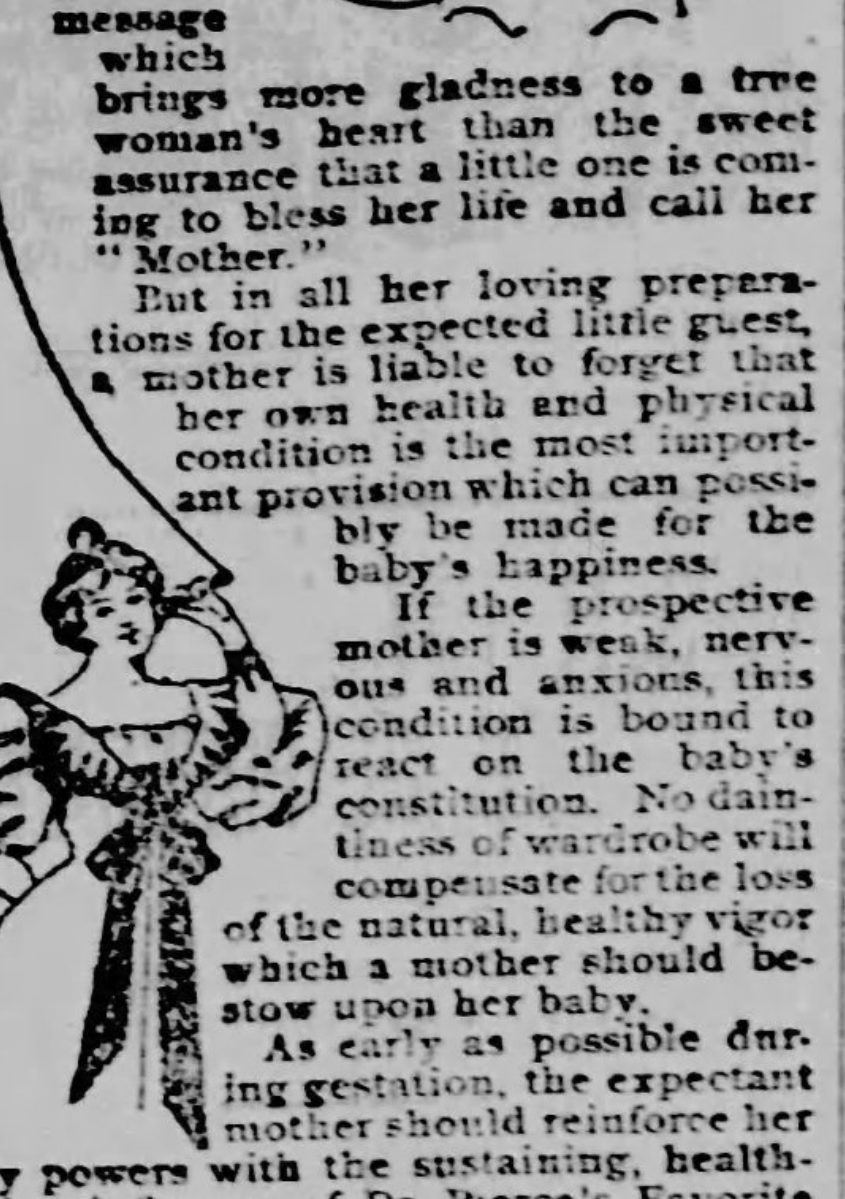
What Mother Says.

She—It seems almost impossible that you should love me.

He—That's what my mother says. How nicely you and she will get along if you always agree like that."—Harlem Life.



SEND FOR A DESCRIPTION OF THE FAMOUS O.I.C. HOGS TWO OF WHICH WEIGHED 2806 lbs.
FIRST APPLICANT IN EACH LOCALITY SECURES A PAIR ON TIME & AGENCY.
SOLD 1129 HEAD FIRST 6 MONTHS 1896 FOR BREEDING PURPOSES.
L. B. Silver Co. Cleveland, O.



There is no message which brings more gladness to a true woman's heart than the sweet assurance that a little one is coming to bless her life and call her "Mother."

But in all her loving preparations for the expected little guest, a mother is liable to forget that her own health and physical condition is the most important provision which can possibly be made for the baby's happiness.

If the prospective mother is weak, nervous and anxious, this condition is bound to react on the baby's constitution. No daintiness of wardrobe will compensate for the loss of the natural, healthy vigor which a mother should bestow upon her baby.

As early as possible during gestation, the expectant mother should reinforce her bodily powers with the sustaining, health-bringing influence of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription.

It gives natural, healthy vigor and elastic endurance to the organs specially concerned in motherhood. It makes the coming of baby perfectly safe and almost painless. It gives nerve-strength to the mother and vital hardihood to the child.

It is the only medicine devised by an educated physician specially to overcome all weaknesses and diseases of the feminine organs.

Mrs. Roscoe Vanover, of Robinson Creek, Pike Co., Ky., writes: "I wish to express my thanks to you for the good I have received from your 'Favorite Prescription.' I have used it at different times for the last five years, and always with the most gratifying results. But the greatest good received from the 'Favorite Prescription' was about four months ago when my last baby was born. I was afflicted with 'child-bed fever.' Instead of sending after a doctor I used the 'Prescription' and was cured. A lady friend of mine was similarly afflicted and sent after the doctor and took his remedies *and died*. I am 37 years old, weigh 147 pounds, the mother of five children, and am enjoying the best of health."

Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets cure constipation, promptly and permanently.

The Farmstead.

INFORMATION WANTED.

Soft Coal Screenings.

C. S., Illinois: Hogs and pregnant sows will not be injured by eating soft coal screenings. They will not eat more than is necessary. Soft coal screenings will drive out of the intestines extraneous matter that is hurtful, is a remedy for worms, and the sulphur in the coal is good for the blood.

Hole in Side of Teat.

A. M. R., Kansas: Yes, the hole in the side of the teat of your cow may be healed when she is dry by scarifying it, touching it with chloride of zinc ½ drachm; water ½ pint. After scarifying apply the zinc lotion just once, then cover with a layer of linen, over which put an easy rubber band. The band should be an inch wide, and easy on the teat.

Calus on Fetlock Joint.

T. H., Iowa: A calus on fetlock joint is not easily removed. Rub this well in: Iodine, 2 drachms; unsalted lard, 2 ozs.

To Destroy Wild Sweet Potato.

Elliott, Illinois: The morning glory, or wild sweet potato, is a pest hard to eradicate. By plowing the land, turning up the roots and harrowing, gathering all roots and burning them this pest may eventually be driven out. Perhaps some one of the readers of The Blade know a better way than this. If so the editor would like to hear from him. There is no application of which the editor knows that will kill the wild morning glory.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Sow and Pigs.

A correspondent of Farm News says: We have a lot of pigs coming on in February and are now going to give the sows the good care necessary to keep them in good health and strong and vigorous for the support of the litters. They are kept in warm, dry and clean quarters, especial emphasis being put on the cleanliness of the breeding pens. They are not made too fat, but at the same time we try to keep them from having that hungry look about the ribs, that so ill becomes a hog. The feed consists of a little corn, and milk and bran slop. Rock salt and bone charcoal are put where the sows can get at it.

We do not bother the sows much for the first day after the pigs come, although we try to be on hand at farrowing time to remove any pigs that are dead, and prevent the wretch from exercising her natural cannibalistic instincts. For the first two or three days we feed the sow a luke warm mash of some kind, and not too much of it. We don't put her on full feed for nearly a month. We have a rye patch into which we turn her and her litter on pleasant days, and believe it is the best thing in the world for them.

As soon as the pigs will take to the trough we begin feeding them, providing a separate trough to which the sow can not get. Milk, with wheat middlings and a little oil meal, or ground oats in place of the middlings, or both, make an excellent feed for the pigs. We have also found soaked corn good for both sow and pigs. If we haven't the green pasture we would be sure to feed clover hay and roots of some kind.

Another thing that is well to remember is that pigs need exercise every day. Don't keep them penned up too closely. Make them move around, give them care and a clean abiding place and they will grow into dollars every day.

Making the Farm Pay.

Secretary McKeen, the efficient secretary of the Maine Board of Agriculture, at a recent farmers' meeting strongly advocated the reduction of the cost of production.

"First, by stopping all wastes as far as possible; stop feeding unprofitable animals and improve our methods. In the dairy the Babcock test and scales will solve the question. In crop and stock production simple debt and credit book keeping does the work. Make everything available for a profit, as does the manufacturer, either directly or indirectly. Increase our farm resources to their fullest possible extent. I am fully satisfied that if our board of agriculture and agricultural societies can bring our farmers to a full realization of the possible resources of their farms, they will be doing them one of the greatest favors in their power.

"It is a crying evil that so many acres of naturally good soil are lying idle or producing but a small part of what they are capable of doing under proper management.

"Another question which we must answer is the getting as much skill as possible into our products, getting them as far removed from the raw material as we can. Skill pays on the farm as elsewhere. The successful farmer of to-day, while he may be lacking in some of the qualities which formerly brought success possesses some which were formerly unknown. Make a reputation for your goods by skillful handling; keep it by fair dealing. This is an age of specialists in all lines of work. The skilled specialist is in constant demand. His labor is at a premium all the time. Our farm work is constantly drifting toward stock production, and to make it a full success we must answer the question of successful breeding, breeding for a purpose, breeding in accordance with the demands of the time."

Hog Cholera.

A. C. Baldwin says in Farmers' Voice: Dr. Baumgarten is quite right in his conclusion that hog cholera is largely due to injudicious feeding, but I cannot agree with him that it is not an infectious disease. I am of the opinion that it is a germ disease and can be kept out of any well-kept and healthy herd. I do, however, believe that much can be done to prevent its attack.

During the past six months a disease called hog cholera (and probably was) has raged through the southwestern part of La Salle county. Many farmers have lost large numbers of hogs and some their entire herds. At the time of its appearance in my immediate neighborhood, I had on hand 70 fine shoats, weighing about 80 pounds each. I at once put all these in my barn and sheds, dividing them into two groups. They were closely watched and men and dogs from farms where the disease raged kept from going near them. The pens were carefully cleaned from two to three times a week and air-slacked lime scattered through them. The pigs were fed very little corn, living almost exclusively on soaked oats. Twice a week they were fed a little copperas in slop. Alternating with the copperas and twice a week they were given about two drops per pig of carbolic acid.

I kept these pigs thus quarantined for about six weeks. Although the disease raged on adjoining farms on three sides of me, I did not have a sick pig and all are alive to-day and are a fine lot of hogs.

Culture of Spinach.

The following is a condensation of a bulletin issued by the Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment station:

Spinach is one of the fastest growing plants; no other field crop yields salable products from seed sooner than spring-grown spinach. These plants are also capable of working both early in the spring and late in the fall. By including spinach in the rotation, one or two extra crops may often be secured from land used for trucking purposes, in a single spring. Spinach enables northern gardeners to use land at a season when it would otherwise be idle. The consumption of spinach is enormously increasing. Lean land always makes lean spinach. The plants usually spindle up prematurely if an attempt is made to grow them even on soil of moderate fertility. By beginning to cut spinach early, and thinning out the plants so that they never crowd in the row, the season of cutting from a single sowing of seed can be prolonged for several weeks. There are four types among the numerously named varieties of the true spinach which have characters more or less distinct. They are the Norfolk, the round-leaved, the thick-leaved, and the prickly seeded. Norfolk "goes to seed" earlier than other kinds. Round-leaved is of firm texture and ships well, but is not extensively grown. Thick-leaved is characterized by its rapid growth and large size. It is enormously productive and particularly valuable for a near market. Prickly seeded, as sold by seedsmen, is planted but little. New Zealand spinach is not much known; it is not closely related to the true spinach, botanically, neither is it a plant of similar habits, but when cooked it makes an excellent substitute for that vegetable, and it can be grown to perfection during the hot summer months, when the growth of the true spinach is impracticable. By starting the seed under glass in February, New Zealand spinach plants may be had that are large enough to trim when the leaf miner begins to work in the leaves of the true spinach. Mountain spinach, or garden orache, has a peculiar flavor that is not relished. Its leaves are injured as badly as those of the true spinach by the leaf miner during warm weather.

The Orchard.

A large number of orchards have never paid and never will. The most common cause is starvation, for the average farmer who plants an orchard or buys one goes on treating the land as if such a thing did not exist. He crops the ground, in rotation or out of it, until it is a wonder that his orchard lives at all.

Apple trees are slow in coming into bearing, and a crop of peach trees planted between the rows will live their short life, bearing several crops of fruit, and be out of the way before the apples crowd them greatly. The latter will protect the peach trees, while the peaches will check growth in the apples and induce earlier fruitage.

It is claimed that a pair of old birds with a nest of young will, in the process of a single day's feeding, destroy nearly 1,000 insects. Multiply this by the great number of insectivorous birds in our fields and forests, and we can get an approximate idea of the helpful protection afforded our agricultural interests.

From the fact that tobacco stems contain a no small per cent of nitrogen, phosphoric acid and phosphorous, they make an excellent plant food, especially for gardens and fruit crops. Their price is but nominal. It is a good plan to mix and compost them with horse manure.

Why does any one advocate that apple orchards should be set to grass? Why are they not cultivated and fertilized just as orange and lemon orchards? Farmers go to great trouble and expense to plant apple orchards, and willingly cultivate them until they begin to bear, then expect nature to keep them producing bountifully.

Where the peach tree is not pruned, long, slender branches form, and these produce fruit mainly at their outer ends. The tree will carry much more fruit if properly distributed, and will produce more perfect fruit. The cutting will not be attended with injury if done while the tree is dormant. That the peach trees should be left to grow at will is an outgrown idea.—Wisconsin Agr.

Young men or old should not fail to read Thos. Slater's offer on page 8.

The Oldest Tree in the World.

In the royal gardens at Kew there is a branch of what is said to be the oldest tree in the world—the famous dragon tree (Dracaena draco) of Oratava. This tree, which was destroyed by a great gale some years ago, was, the new weekly paper the Rocket says, supposed to be at least 2,000 or 3,000 years old—some assigned it a much longer growth. A branch was removed from it and brought to Kew, where it still thrives; it may be seen in the Economic house.—Westminster Gazette.

A Topical Song.

Take a string of nonsense,
Add a little rhyme,
Set it to a jingle,
Stolen every time.
Print a colored picture
Of a girl on every page,
And it won't be long before your song
Is simply all the rage.
—Pittsburg News.

Hereditary Crime.

Judge—How did you come to steal the chicken?

Prisoner—Heredity, your honor.

Judge—What do you mean, sir?

Prisoner—My ancestors landed on Plymouth Rock.—New York Tribune.

Bad Form.

His New Mamma-in-Law—I trust, my dear son, that you never indulge in that pernicious habit of going out between the acts for a drink of intoxicants?

The Bridegroom—Why, my dear mamma you didn't think I had it brought in, did you?"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

FREE CURE FOR MEN

A MICHIGAN MAN OFFERS TO SEND HIS DISCOVERY FREE.

Claims to Be a Benefactor to Weakened Mankind.

There is always more or less suspicion attached to anything that is offered free, but sometimes a man so overflows with generosity that he cannot rest until his discovery is known to the world, in order that his fellow men may profit by what he has discovered. It is upon this principle that a resident of Kalamazoo, Mich., desires to send free to mankind a prescription which will cure them of any form of nervous debility; relieves them of all the doubt and uncertainty which such men are peculiarly liable to and restores the organs to natural size and vigor. As it costs nothing to try the experiment it would seem that any man, suffering with the nervous troubles that usually attack men who never stopped to realize what might be the final result, ought to be deeply interested in a remedy which will restore them to health, strength and vigor, without which they continue to live an existence of untold misery. As the remedy in question was the result of many years' research as to what combination would be peculiarly effective in restoring to men the strength they need, it would seem that all men suffering with any form of nervous weakness ought to write for such a remedy at once. A REQUEST TO H. C. OLDS, BOX [illegible] KALAMAZOO, MICH., STATING THAT YOU ARE NOT SENDING FOR THE PRESCRIPTION OUT OF IDLE CURIOSITY, BUT THAT YOU WISH TO MAKE USE OF THE MEDICINE BY GIVING IT A TRIAL, will be answered promptly and without evidence as to where information came from.

The prescription is sent free, and although some may wonder how Mr. Olds can afford to give away his discovery, there is no doubt about the offer being genuine. CUT THIS OUT AND SEND TO MR. OLDS SO THAT HE MAY KNOW HOW YOU CAME TO WRITE HIM.

Talmage's Sermon.

ANSWERS IN THE STARS.

Dr. Talmage's Sermon on Astrology of Olden Days.

Washington, Feb. 1.—This sermon of Dr. Talmage looking at the midnight heavens through the eyes of one of the ancients, is unique for practicability, and must set all to useful thinking. His text is: Amos 5:8, "Seek Him that maketh the Seven Stars and Orion."

A country farmer wrote this text—Amos of Tekoa. He plowed the earth and threshed the grain by a new threshing machine just invented, as formerly the cattle trod out the grain. He gathered the fruit of the sycamore tree, and scarified it with an iron comb just before it was getting ripe, as it was necessary and customary in that way to take from it the bitterness. He was the son of a poor shepherd, and stuttered; but before the stammering rustic the Philistine and Syrians, and Phoenicians, and Moabites, and Ammonites, and Edomites, and Israelites trembled.

Moses was a law giver, Daniel was a prince, Isaiah a courtier, and David a king; but Amos, the author of my text, was a peasant, and as might be supposed, nearly all his parallelisms are pastoral, his prophecy full of the odor of new mown hay, and the rattle of locusts, and the rumble of carts with sheaves, and the roar of wild beasts devouring the flock while the shepherd came out in their defense. He watched the herds by day, and by night inhabited a booth made out of bushes, so that through these branches he could see the stars all night long, and was more familiar with them than we who have tight roofs to our houses, and hardly ever see the stars except among the tall brick chimneys of the great towns. But at seasons of the year when the herds were in special danger, he would stay out in the open field all through the darkness, his only shelter the curtain of the night-heaven, with the stellar embroideries and silvered tassels of lunar light.

What a life of solitude, all alone with his herds! Poor Amos! And at 12 o'clock at night, hark to the wolf's bark, and the lion's roar, and the bear's growl, and the owl's to-whit-to-who, and the serpent's hiss, as he unwittingly steps too near while moving through the thickets! So Amos, like other herdsmen, got the habit of studying the map of the heavens, because it was so much of the time spread out before him. He noticed some stars advancing and others receding. He associated their dawn and setting with certain seasons of the year. He had a poetic nature, and he read night by night, and month by month, and year by year, the poem of the constellations, divinely rhythmic. But two rosettes of stars especially attracted his attention while seated on the ground, or lying on his back under the open scroll of the midnight heaven—the Pleiades, or Seven Stars, and Orion. The former group this rustic prophet associated with the spring, as it rises about the first of May. The latter he associated with winter, as it comes to the meridian in January. The Pleiades, or Seven Stars, connected with all sweetness and joy; Orion, the herald of the tempest. The ancients were the more apt to study the physiognomy and juxtaposition of the heavenly bodies, because they thought they had a special influence upon the earth; and perhaps they were right. If the moon every few hours lifts and lets down the tides of the Atlantic Ocean, and the electric storms in the sun, by all scientific admission, affected the earth, why not the stars have proportionate effect?

And there are some things which make me think that it may not have been all superstition which connected the movements and appearance of the heavenly bodies with great moral events on earth. Did not a meteor run on evangelistic errand on the first Christmas night, and designate the rough cradle of our Lord? Did not the stars in their course fight against Sisera? Was it merely coincidental that before the destruction of Jerusalem the moon was hidden for twelve consecutive nights? Did it merely happen so that a new star appeared in constellation Cassiopeia, and then disappeared just before Charles IX. of France, who was responsible for St. Bartholomew massacre, died? Was it without significance that in the days of the Roman Emperor Justinian war and famine were preceded by the dimness of the sun, which for nearly a year gave no more light than the moon, although there were no clouds to obscure it?

Astrology, after all, may have been something more than a brilliant heathenism. No wonder that Amos of the text, having heard these two anthems of the stars, put down the stout, rough staff of the herdsmen and took into his brown hand and cut and knotted fingers the pen of a prohpet, and advised the recreant people of his time to return to God, saying: "Seek Him that maketh the Seven Stars and Orion." This command, which Amos gave 785 years before Christ, is just as appropriate for us 1897 A. D.

In the first place, Amos saw, as we must see, that the God who made the Pleiades and Orion must be the God of order. It was not so much a star here and a star there that impressed the inspired herdsman, but seven in one group, and seven in the other group. He saw that night after night and season after season and decade after decade they had kept step of light, each one in its own place, a sisterhood never clashing and never contesting precedence. From the time Hesiod called the 'Pleiades the "seven daughters of Atlas" and Virgil wrote in his Aeneid of "Stormy Orion' until now, they have observed the order established for their coming and going; order not written in manuscript that may be pigeonholed, but with the hand of the Almighty on the dome of the sky, so that all nations may read it. Order. Persistent order. Sublime order. Omnipotent order.

What a sedative to you and me, to whom communities and nations sometimes seem going pell-mell, and the world ruled by some fiend at hap-hazard, and in all directions maladministration! The God who keeps seven worlds in right circuit for 6,000 years can certainly keep all the affairs of individuals and nations and continents in adjustment. We had not better fret much, for the peasant's argument of the text was right. If God can take care of the seven worlds of the Pleiades and the four chief worlds of Orion, he can probably take care of the one world we inhabit.

So I feel very much as my father felt one day when we were going to the country mill to get a grist ground, and I, a boy of seven years, sat in the back part of the wagon, and our yoke of oxen ran away with us and along a labyrinthine road through the woods, so that I thought every moment we would be dashed to pieces, and I made a terrible outcry of fright, and my father turned to me with a face perfectly calm and said: "DeWitt, what are you crying about? I guess we can ride as fast as the oxen can run." And, my hearers, why should we be affrighted and lose our equilibrium in the swift movement of worldly events, especially when we are assured that it is not a yoke of unbroken steers that are drawing us on, but that order and wise government are in the yoke?

In your occupation, your mission, your sphere, do the best you can, and then trust to God; and if things are all mixed and disquieting, and your brain is hot, and your heart sick, get some one to go with you into the starlight and point out to you the Pleiades, or, better than that, get into some observatory, and through the telescope see further than Amos with the naked eye could—namely, two hundred stars in the Pleiades, and that in what is called the sword of Orion there is a nebula computed to be two trillion, two hundred thousand billions of times larger than the sun. Oh, be at peace with the God who made that and controls all that—the wheel of the constellations turning in the wheel of galaxies for thousands of years without the breaking of a cog, or the slipping of a band, or the snap of an axle. For your placidity and comfort, through the Lord Jesus Christ I charge you, "Seek Him that maketh the Seven Stars and Orion."

Again, Amos saw, as we must see, that the God who made these two groups of the text was the God of light. Amos saw that God was not satisfied with making one star, or two or three stars, but he makes seven; and having finished that group of worlds, makes another group—group after group. To the Pleiades he adds Orion. It seems that God likes light so well that he keeps making it. Only one being in the universe knows the statistics of solar, lunar, stellar, meteoric creations, and that is the Creator himself. And they have all been lovingly christened, each one a name as distinct as the names of your children. "He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names." The seven Pleiades had names given to them, and they are Alcyone, Merope, Celaeno, Electra, Sterope, Taygete and Maia.

But think of the billions and trillions of daughters of starry light that God calls by name as they sweep by him with beaming brow and lustrous robe! So fond is God of light—natural light, moral light, spiritual light. Again and again is light harnessed for symbolization—Christ, the bright and morning star; evangelization, the daybreak; the redemption of nations, son of righteousness rising with healing in his wings. Oh, men and women, with so many sorrows and sins and perplexities, if you want light of comfort, light of pardon, light of goodness, in earnest prayer through Christ "See Him that maketh the Seven Stars and Orion."

Again, Amos saw, as he must see, that the God who made these two archipelagoes of stars must be an unchanging God. There had been no change in the stellar appearance in this herdsman's lifetime, and his father, a shepherd, reported to him that there had been no change in his lifetime. And these two clusters hang over the celestial arbor just as they were the first night that they shone on the Edenic bowers, the same as when the Egyptians built the Pyramids from the op of which to watch them, the same as when the Chaldeans calculated the eclipses, the same as when Elihu, according to the Book of Job, went out to study the aurora borealis the same united Ptolemaic system and Copernican system, the same from Calisthenes to Pythagoras, and from Pythagoras to Herschel. Surely, a changeless God must have fashioned the Pleiades and Orion! Oh, what an anodyne amid the ups and downs of life, and the flux and reflux of the tides of prosperity, to know that we have a changeless God, "the same yesterday, today and forever."

Xerxes garlanded and knighted the steersman of his boat in the morning, and hanged himself in the evening of the same day. Fifty thousand people stood around the columns of the national capital, shouting themselves hoarse at the Presidential inaugural, and in four months so great were the antipathies that a ruffian's pistol in Washington depot expressed the sentiment of many a disappointed office-seeker. The world sits in its chariot and drives tandem, and the horse ahead is Huzza, and the horse behind is Anathema. Lord Cobham, in King James's attire, was applauded, and had $35,000 a year, but was afterward execrated and lived on scraps stolen from the royal kitchen. Alexander the Great after death remained unburied for thirty days because no one would do the honor of shoveling him under. The Duke of Wellington refused to have his iron fence mended because it had been broken by an infuriated populace in some hour of political excitement, and he left it in ruin that men might learn what a fickle thing is human favor. "But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting to them that fear him, and his righteousness unto the children's children of such as keep his covenant, and to those who remember his commandments to do them." This moment "seek him that maketh the Seven Stars and Orion."

Again Amos saw as we must see, that the God who made these two beacons of the oriental night sky, must be a God of love and kindly warning. The Pleiades rising in mid-sky said to all the herdsmen and shepherds and husbandmen: "Come out and enjoy the mild weather and cultivate your gardens and fields." Orion, coming in winter warned them to prepare for tempest. All navigation was regulated by these two constellations. The one said to shipmaster and crew, "Hoist sail for the sea, and gather merchandise from other lands." But Orion was the storm signal, and said: "Reef sail, make things snug, or put into harbor, for the hurricanes are getting their wings out." As the Pleiades were the sweet evangels of the spring, Orion was the warning prophet of the winter.

Oh, now I get the best view of God I ever had! There are two sermons I never want to preach—the one that presents God so kind, so indulgent, so lenient, so imbecile that men may do what they will against him, and fracture his every law, and put the pry of their impertinence and rebellion under his throne, and while they are spitting in his face and stabbing at his heart, he takes them up in his arms, and kisses their infuriated brow and cheek, saying, "Of such is the kingdom of heaven." The other kind of sermon I never want to preach is the one that represents God as all fire and torture and thunder-cloud, and with red-hot pitchfork tossing the human race into paroxysms of infinite agony. The sermon that I am now preaching believes in a God of loving, kindly warning, the God of spring and winter, the God of the Pleiades and Orion.

You must remember that the winter is just as important as the spring. Let one winter pass without frost to kill vegetation and ice to bind the rivers and snow to enrich our fields, and then you will have to enlarge your hospitals and your cemeteries. "A green Christmas makes a fat graveyard," was the old proverb. Storms to purify the air. Thermometer at three degrees below zero to tone up the system. December and January just as important as May and June. I tell you we need the storms of life as much as we do the sunshine. There are more men ruined by prosperity than by adversity. If we had our own way in life, before this we would have been impersonations of selfishness and worldliness and disgusting sin, and puffed up until we would have been like Julius Caesar, who was made by sycophants to believe that he was divine, and the freckles on his face were said to be as the stars of the firmament.

One of the swiftest transatlantic voyages made one summer by the Etruria was because she had a strong wind abaft, chasing her from New York to Liverpool. But to those going in the opposite direction the storm was a buffeting and a hindrance. It is a bad thing to have a storm ahead, pushing us back; but if we be God's children and aiming toward heaven, the storms of life will only chase us the sooner into the harbor. I am so glad to believe that the monsoons, typhoons, and mistrals, and siroccos of the land and sea are not unchained maniacs let loose upon the earth, but are under divine supervision! I am so glad that the God of the Seven Stars is also the God of Orion! It was out of Dante's suffering came the sublime Divina Commedia, and out of John Milton's blindness came Paradise Lost, and out of miserable infidel attack came the Bridgewater Treatise in favor of Christianity, and out of David's exile came the songs of consolation, and out of the suffering of Christ came the possibility of the world's redemption, and out of your bereavement, your persecution, your poverties, your misfortunes, may yet come an eternal heaven.

Oh, what a mercy it is that in the text and all up and down the Bible God induces us to look out toward other worlds! Bible astronomy in Genesis, in Joshua, in Job, in the Psalms, in the prophets, major and minor, in St. John's Apocalypse, practically saying, "Worlds! worlds! worlds! Get ready for them!" We have a nice little world here that we stick to, as though losing that we lose all. We are afraid of falling off this little raft of a world. We are afraid that some meteoric iconoclast will some night smash it, and we want everything to revolve around it, and are disappointed when we find that it revolves around the sun instead of the sun revolving around it. What a fuss we make about this little bit of a world, its existence only a short time between two spasms, the paroxysm by which it was hurled from chaos into order, and the paroxysm of its demolition.

And I am glad that so many texts call us to look off to other worlds, many of them larger and grander and more resplendent. "Look there," says Job, "at Mazaroth and Arcturus and his sons!" "Look there," says Joshua, "at the sun standing still above Gideon!" "Look there," says Moses, "at the sparkling firmament!" "Look there," says Amos, the herdsman, "at the Seven Stars and Orion!" Do not let us be so sad about those who shove off from this world under Christly pilotage. Do not let us be so agitated about our own going off this little barge or sloop or canal-boat of a world to get on some Great Eastern of the heavens. Do not let us persist in wanting to stay in this barn, this shed, this out-house of a world, when all the King's palaces already occupied by many of our best friends are swinging wide open their gates to let us in.

When I read, "In my Father's house are many mansions," I do not know but that each world is a room, and as many rooms as there are worlds, stellar stairs, stellar galleries, stellar hall ways, stellar windows, stellar domes. How our departed friends must pity us shut up in these cramped apartments, tired if we walk 15 miles, when they some morning, by one stroke of wing, can make circuit of the whole stellar system and be back in time for matins! Perhaps yonder twinkling constellation is the residence of the martyrs; that group of 12 luminaries may be the celestial home of the apostles. Perhaps that steep of light is the dwelling place of angels cherubic, seraphic, archangelic. A mansion with as many rooms as worlds, and all their windows illuminated for festivity.

Oh, how this widens and lifts and stimulates our expectation! How little it makes the present, and how stupendous it makes the future! How it consoles us about our pious dead, that instead of being boxed up and under the ground, have the range of as many rooms as there are worlds, and welcome everywhere, for it is the Father's house, in which there are many mansions! Oh, Lord God, of the Seven Stars and Orion, how can I endure the transport, the ecstasy, of such a vision. I must obey the text and seek him. I will seek him. I seek him now, for I call to my mind that it is not the material universe that is most valuable, but the spiritual, and that each of us has a soul worth more than all the worlds which the inspired herdsman saw from his booth on the hills of Tekoa.

I had studied it before, but the Cathedral of Cologne, Germany, never impressed me as it did one summer. It is admittedly the grandest Gothic structure in the world, its foundations laid in 1248, only a few years ago completed, more than six hundred years in building. All Europe taxed for its construction. Its chapel of the Magi with precious stones enough to purchase a kingdom. Its chapel of St. Agnes with masterpieces of painting. Its spire springing five hundred and eleven feet into the heavens. Its stained glass the chorus of all rich colors. Statues encircling the pillars and encircling all. Statues above statues, until sculpture can do no more, but faints and falls back against carved stalls and down on pavements over which the kings and queens of the earth have walked to confessional. Nave and aisle and transept and portals combining the splendor of sunrise and sunset. Interlaced, interfoliated, intercolumned grandeur. As I stood outside looking at the double range of flying buttresses and the forest of pinnacles, higher and higher and higher, until I almost reeled from dizziness, I exclaimed: "Great doxology in stone! Frozen prayer of many nations!"

But while standing there I saw a poor man enter and put down his pack and kneel beside his burden on the hard floor of that cathedral. And tears of deep emotion came into my eyes, as I said to myself: "There is a soul worth more than all the material surroundings. That man will live after the last pinnacle has fallen, and not one stone of all that cathedral glory shall remain uncrumbled. He is now a Lazarus in rags and poverty and weariness, but immortal, and a son of the Lord God Almighty; and the prayer he now offers, though amid many superstitions, I believe God will hear; and among the apostles whose sculptured forms stand in the surrounding niches he will at last be lifted, and into the presence of that Christ whose sufferings are represented by the crucifix before which he bows; and be raised in due time out of all his poverties into the glorious home built for us by 'Him who maketh the Seven Stars and Orion.'"

Little Men and Women

We call them little men and little women, but they are neither. They have ideas and ways all their own. Fortunately they soon become fond of cod-liver oil, when it is given to them in the form of SCOTT'S EMULSION. This is the most valuable remedy in existence for all the wasting diseases of early life. The poorly nourished, scrofulous child; the thin, weak, fretting child; the young child who does not grow; all take Scott's Emulsion without force or bribe. It seems as if they knew that this meant nourishment and growth for bones, muscles and nerves.

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THE LAST STRAW.

Why He Thought It Was Time to Turn Respectable.

He was a bold bad man, observes the Detroit Free Press, but he did not look so when he walked up to the policeman and said:

"I've made you fellers a good deal of trouble, ain't I?"

"You livened business up a good deal at times, Jim," was the answer.

"Well, you needn't have any more uneasiness. I've hunted you up to tell ye that ye kin scratch me off'n yer visit'n' list as fur as any good it'll do you ter call is concerned."

"I've heard that kind of a story before. But I reckon we'll be around now and then just the same when any job turns up that seems to have your finger marks on it."

"Course, I didn't expect you'd take my word for it. But jest the same I'm done."

"How are you going to live?" asked the policeman.

"I can't say yet. I'll drive a dray or somethin'. Anyhow, I'm clean discouraged with the old life that I've been leadin'."

"I'm glad you've come to show something of a conscience."

"I don't want no credit when I ain't earned it. 'Tain't no conscience. I'm jes' clean discouraged. Times is hard and vallybles is scarce, but I could 'a' hung out ef it hadn't been that these modern improvements is gettin' common."

"Burglar alarms and such things?"

"Not exactly burglar alarms, though they're bad enough. [illegible] kep' on dodgin' them, but when I get into a feller's room ez I did the other night, an' wake him an' he jes' shets up in 'is foldin' bed an' shoots at me through a knothole, I don't see nothin' fur a man ter do but lay down and tuhn respectable."

FAMOUS OLD CHURCH.

THAT OF PETITS-PERES, THE MECCA OF PILGRIMS IN PARIS.

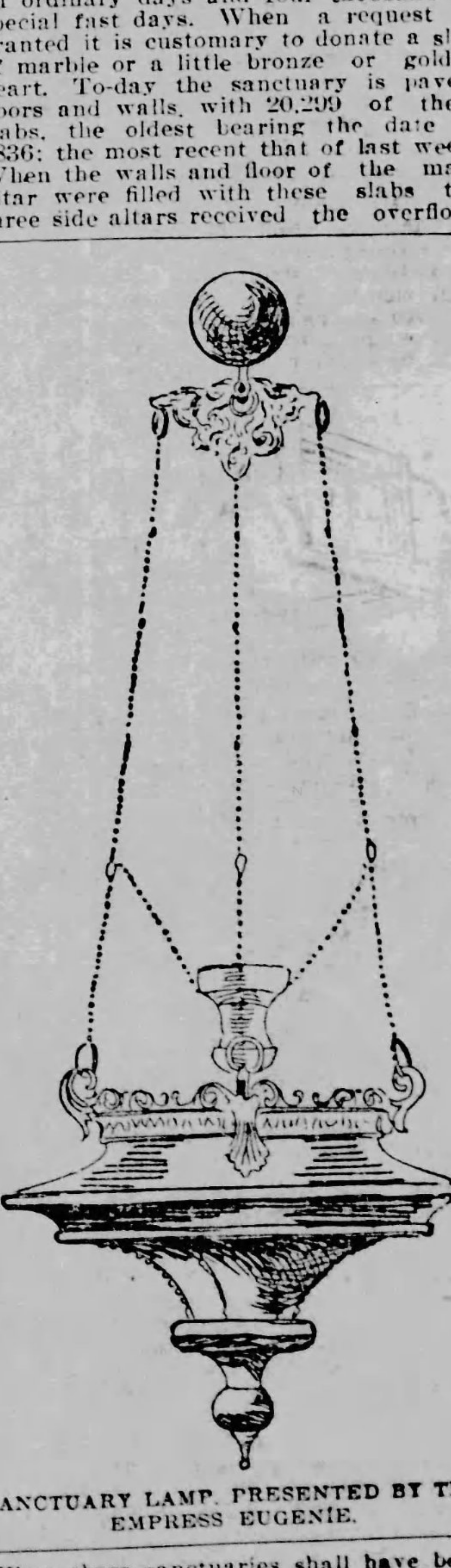
Centre of a Fraternity—Thousands of Buring Candles Illuminate the Daily Devotions of the Faithful.

The recent retirement, after a long and edifying pastorate, of the Rev. M. Chevoyon, Cure of Notre Dame des Victoires, and the appointment of his successor, Abbe Rataud, joined to the fact that the past and the present year are in a certain sense centenaries of stirring events in its history, has once more called public attention to this famous old church of the "Petits-Peres," says the New York Herald. The parish is unique in its character in Paris, for it is less a parish of the great city than a shrine known to the whole world, counting among its worshipers not only occasional visitors, but the countless faithful enrolled under the title of the "Members of the Arch-Confraternity of the Immaculate Heart of Mary for the Conversion of Sinners,' or as they are more generally known, "The Arch-Confraternity of the Blessed Virgin."

To explain the success of this organization from a purely human point of view it must be borne in mind that the belief in the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception antedated its official consecration by the court of Rome under the pontificat of Pius IX. But this scattered devotion lacked a center, and in organizing his arch confraternity Abbe Genettes established the desired headquarters in his own parish. The work grew beyond all expectations. Started under the title of "Association," with a few members located in Paris, it was promoted to the dignity of an arch confraternity in 1837 by an edict of Pope Gregory XVI. and the right was conferred upon it of spreading its spiritual treasures by the affiliation of parishes and Christians over the entire world. In 1838 133 parishes and 200,000 members were enrolled on its books.

From that time on there was an uninterrupted stream of pilgrims and 20 years later Notre Dame des Victoires had become the most visited church in France, in fact, in the whole world. It was estimated that the yearly average of pilgrims surpassed 300,000. On ordinary days 8,000 have been counted; on Sundays, and especially during the month of May, 20,000. The number of communions given from the altar numbered more than 150,000 yearly, and over 5,000 masses are said by visiting priests, besides the offices celebrated by the clergy of the parish during the year. The prayers offered by the faithful for the conversions, healing of the sick, and graces of different kinds average more than a million and a half.

It is the custom of the pilgrims to light a candle in the church upon making their requests, and in this way there are sometimes eight hundred candles burning on ordinary days and four thousand on special fast days. When a request is granted it is customary to donate a slab of marble or a little bronze or golden heart. To-day the sanctuary is paved, floors and walls, with 20,299 of these slabs, the oldest bearing the date of 1836; the most recent that of last week. When the walls and floor of the main altar were filled with these slabs the three side altars received the overflow.



SANCTUARY LAMP, PRESENTED BY THE EMPRESS EUGENIE.

When these sanctuaries shall have been filled there will not remain a spot as large as a handkerchief upon which to lay these marble offerings.

The hearts number almost as many: 19,231 have been received, the majority containing an enclosed inscription, giving the name of the donor, the circumstances in which God has favored them. A portion of these hearts has been used to festoon the litanies of the Virgin in the main aisles; others, in gold and silver, have served for the foundation of sacred vessels, and many are profusely ornamented by diamonds and precious stones.

The most elaborate among the many gifts given to the church are the two sanctuary lamps, presented respectively by the Empress Eugenie and the Queen of Spain, and the two crowns of gold and precious stones, ornamenting the heads of the Blessed Virgin and the Infant Jesus, gifts from Pope Pius IX. in 1853. Unfortunately these incomparable works of the jeweller's art were stolen during the commune. Since then the two crowns have been replaced by public subscription, and the present treasures of Notre Dame des Victoires are richer than ever.

A very famous statue of St. Peter adorns one of the side altars, and a most beautiful marble altar in the choir proper is the result of a sermon preached by a Carmelite father in 1863. His eloquence so touched his audience that, not content with pouring louis d'or into the collection plate, they gave jewels and everything vauable upon their persons.

The church contains a most valuable collection of paintings by Carle Vanloo, representing the principal events in the life of St. Augustine, the patron saint of the Petits-Peres.

Declined With Thanks.

He—Do you think marriages are made in heaven?

She—Well, I don't know; but I guess yours will have to be if you ever get married.

People who saw him one minute later thought that he was trying to catch a train. —Cleveland Leader.

The Whole Story

Of the great sales attained and great cures accomplished by Hood's Sarsaparilla is quickly told. It purifies and enriches the blood, tones the stomach and gives strength and vigor. Disease cannot enter the system fortified by the rich, red blood which comes by taking Hood's Sarsaparilla.

HOOD'S PILLS cure nausea, sick headache, indigestion, biliousness. All druggists. 25c.

BILL'S IN TROUBLE.

I've got a letter, parson, from my son away out West,
An' my ol' heart is heavy as an anvil in my breast,
To think the boy whose futur' I had once so proudly planned
Should wander from the path o' right an' come to sich an end!
I told him when he left us only three short years ago
He'd find himself a-plowin' in a mighty crooked row—
He'd miss his father's counsels, an' his mother's prayers, too,
But he said the farm was hateful, an' he guessed he'd have to go.

I know thar's big temptation for a youngster in the West,
But I believed our Billy had the courage to resist,
An' when he left I warned him o' the ever-waitin' snares
That lie like hidden sarpents in life's pathway everywheres.
But Bill he promised faithful to be keerful, an' allowed
He'd build a reputation that 'd make us mighty proud.
But it seems as how my counsel sort o' faded from his mind,
An' now the boy's in trouble o' the very wustest kind!

His letters came so seldom that I somehow sort o' knowed
That Billy was a trampin' on a mighty rocky road,
But never once imagined he would bow my head in shame,
An' in the dust 'd waller his ol' daddy's honored name.
He writes from out in Denver, an' the story's mighty short;
I just can't tell his mother; it'll crush her poor ol' heart!
An' so I reckoned, parson, you might break the news to her—
Bill's in the Legislatur', but he doesn't say what fur.

—Denver Post.

A DAY IN A ZENANA.

An English artist in India had not long ago the unusual experience of spending a day in the zenana of a Mohammedan family in Delhi and writes an entertaining account of his experiences in one of the February monthlies.

A strictly orthodox Mohammedan would not dream of allowing a foreign man to visit his zenana, even for the purpose of sketching, but the family who accorded the artist this privilege was not strictly orthodox, one of the daughters even going so far as to wear European costume when she appeared on the street. The ladies of the zenana were delighted at the idea of having their pictures taken and being on friendly terms with the ladies of the Mogul court they prepared themselves and their surroundings exactly as they might have been seen at the Delhi palace, even hiring a party of Nautch girls to dance in the afternoon. In accordance with this idea the older lady represented the "Begum" and one of her daughters the "Shahzadee Begum," or imperial daughter, and were found seated on carpets surrounded by all the paraphernalia of Eastern rank and each wearing over $10,000 worth of jewelry.

Both ladies were smoking—not insignificant cigarettes, but hookahs, and also chewing—not tobacco, but "pawn," which is betel-nut mixed with a small quantity of lime, small lumps of the combination being rolled up in pawn leaves. Pawn, when chewed, produces a bright red color in the mouth and necessitates the use of spittoons or "pawn-dans," silver receptacles placed in full view and calculated to destroy some of the romance which clings to ideas about "lights of the harem" and Oriental beauties generally.

The "Begum" and her imperial daughter wore costumes of rich material, made with small vests covering the breast but exposing most of the arm, and pyjamas or divided skirts with sweeping trains. They were laden with jewelry and their thumb rings had small circular mirrors set like stones.

The ladies of Mohammedan zenanas often amuse themselves with cookery and concoct nice dishes, which they send to their friends. Much time is given to the care and polishing of their jewelry and to their toilets. On full dress occasions henna is always applied to the hands and the mode of application is peculiar. A flat surface of some kind is smeared over with henna, which is of a rich, reddish brown shade, and "the palm of the hand, as well as the fingers, is placed on the color and gently rubbed once or twice along, the henna being left on the hand just as it happens to have been stained by the process. An irregular outline is the result, owing to the swellings and depressions of the muscles." The soles of the feet are treated in the same way.

HOW TO FIND OUT.

Fill a bottle or common water glass with urine and let it stand twenty-four hours; a sediment or settling indicates a diseased condition of the kidneys. When urine stains linen it is positive evidence of kidney trouble. Too frequent desire to urinate or pain in the back is also convincing proof that the kidneys and bladder are out of order.

WHAT TO DO.

There is comfort in the knowledge so often expressed, that Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, the great kidney remedy, fulfills every wish in relieving pain in the back, kidneys, liver, bladder and every part of the urinary passages. It corrects inability to hold the urine and scalding pain in passing it, or bad effects following the use of liquor, wine or beer, and overcomes that unpleasant necessity of being compelled to get up many times during the night to urinate. The mild and the extraordinary effect of Swamp-Root is soon realized. It stands the highest for its wonderful cures of the most distressing cases. If you need a medicine you should have the best. Sold by druggists, price fifty cents and one dollar. For a sample bottle and pamphlet, both sent free by mail, mention The Blade and send your full postoffice address to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y. The proprietors of this paper guarantee the genuineness of this offer.

PUNISHMENT OF THE BAGNO.

One of the Most Exquisitely Cruel Tortures Ever Devised.

In former times the punishment of the bagno (bath), one of the most cleverly cruel inflictions ever devised by an official of the torture chamber, was administered in Italy, probably in Venice, where the water of the lagoons played so important a part in its penal system, says Monsieur du Puy. The punishment was as follows:

The prisoner was placed in a vat the sides of which were slightly in excess of the average height of a man. In order to hold in check the rising tide of a supply of water which ran into the vat in a constant stream the criminal was furnished with a scoop with which to bale out the water as fast as it came in.

The respite from death by immersion thus obtained was more or less prolonged, according to the powers of endurance possessed by the victim. But imagine the moral torture, the exhausting and even hideously grotesque efforts, the incessant and pitiless toil by night and day to stave off the dread moment, fast approaching, when, overcome by sleep and fatigue, he was unable to struggle any longer against his fate.

How Do You Know?

The man who attempts to fill a first husband's shoes has to be more angelic than mortal if he hopes to attain any success. And it doesn't matter much what kind of a man the first husband was, either.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

Too Good to Hope For.

Mamma—Freddie, Freddie, how often have I told you not to mock the peculiarities of others? If you do, you'll grow just like them.

Freddie (after a long pause)—Ma, if I mocked the elephant very hard do you suppose I'd ever grow so's I could pick apples over the fence with my nose?—Truth.

The Sunday School.

The Prison Opened.

LESSON 7, FEBRUARY 14, 1897.

Golden Text: We ought to obey God rather than men.—Acts. v:29.

17. Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,) and were filled with indignation,

18. And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison.

19. But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said,

20. Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.

21. And when they heard that, they entered into the temple early in the morning, and taught. But the high priest came, and they that were with him, and called the council together, and all the senate of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought.

22. But when the officers came and found them not in the prison, they returned, and told,

23. Saying, The prison truly found we shut with all safety, and the keepers standing without before the doors; but when we had opened we found no man within.

24. Now when the high priest and the captain of the temple and chief priests heard these things, they doubted of them whereunto this would grow.

25. Then came one and told them saying, Behold, the men whom ye put in prison are standing in the temple, and teaching the people.

26. Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence: for they feared the people lest they should have been stoned.

27. And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them,

28. Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.

29. Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

30. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree.

31. Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

32. And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

Illustrative Applications.

Go ye, and stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life (v. 20). The lesson for us is, when God gives us opportunity, as he did now to these disimprisoned apostles, at once seize it. How many times, when we have chance, we are uncertain to use chance! I remember, with perpetual shame, an instance in my own life. I had been steadily speaking for a good many days, and was quite wearied, and was riding home on the railroad in a Pullman car. I was intently engaged in reading, when a gentleman entered the compartment in which I was sitting, and, noticing I was reading a religious book, in a very courteous way sought to enter into a religious conversation with me. I let know know, as one can, that I did not just then desire conversation, excusing myself to myself because of my weariness. He went away. I have never seen him since. I was given propitious chance to speak the words of true life, and I refused the chance. It is a sad thing to do. I have repented the doing it many times. But my repentence does not give me back the chance. When God opens doors for us, as he did those prison doors for the apostles, as there were opened the doors of opportunity for me, we Christians ought to hear and heed the mandate, "Go ye, speak!" and at once do it. It is a great and gracious thing to be alert for service, and quickly to enter the open doors for it. The apostles did not wait. And when they heard this they entered into the temple about daybreak, and taught.

But Peter and the apostles answered and said, We must obey God rather than men (v. 29). I think the old scene reenacts itself. There is many a sanhedrin yet before which the soul, true to the truth, must stand arraigned, and in whose presence the soul must bravely say, "We must obey God rather than men." There is the sanhedrin of expediency. This is a fallen world. Denials can not change the fact. The world is not pure, good, true, peaceful. Passion is not chained. The innocence of childhood does not become the virtue of manhood. This bad world elaborates bad laws, fashions, customs. To the man who would live as Milton sought to, "as ever in his great Taskmaster's eye," to the man who would test himself by God and conscience, the expedient is perpetually suggested. "Such standards are impossible in such a world;" "Everybody does differently;" "If you are to live in the world, you must get on in the world's way;" "You are foolish to stand in your own light;" "Being in Rome, you must do as the Romans do;" to be unworldly in a worldly world, to say the least, is decidedly inexpedient. But the only right answer before such sanhedrin of expediency is the answer of the apostles, "We must obey God rather than men." There is the sanhedrin of many a fashionable amusement. It is right to be amused. Toil must sometimes relax and soften into play. You can not keep the string of life tense all the time. But the world seizes this necessity for amusement and twists it into subserviency to itself. It throws all the glamors of sinfulness about it. The world can not rest satisfied with a decent and modest dance, but is all the time thrusting into what is called society those which, to say the least, stagger on the verge of indecency. And when you remonstrate against such things, the suggestion comes, "You can not change the customs of society;" "You will lose caste;" "You will be tabooed in your set, if you are not careful." The only possible answer is the answer of the apostles, "We must obey God rather than men." There is the sanhedrin of worldly success. If a man do but stand on its eminence, the world does not much care or question how he got there. He is rich; that is enough. He is a little sovereign on his throne. People court him. Sycophants speak his praises. So the world comes to a young man, and says: "See there; do you see that man? what success has done for him it will do for you;" "Be sure to mount where he stands;" "Never mind if the paths leading thither are a little crooked and a little muddy;" "Never mind the means—it is the end you are after." The only true and noble answer is again the answer of the apostles, "We must obey God rather than men." There is frequently the sanhedrin of appetite. A man has yielded, and the sanhedrin of appetite seizes and summons him. But he will be free, he says. Then at once Drink sends all its emissaries after him—of bad companionships, of temptations at every street corner; inward emissaries of awful, sinking, gnawing cravings. What shall the man do? There is only this thing to do—to fling into the faces of this cruelest of sanhedrins the manly challenge, "I ought to obey God rather; in his strength I will be free; I will assert my manhood." Yes, that ancient sanhedrin has gone; but there is many a modern one still, in whose presence the ancient answer is the only fitting modern one—we must obey God rather than men.

And so is the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey (v. 32). Obedience is the door to help and blessing. It is so everywhere. The wise Bacon said, "Nature is conquered only by obeying her." What wonders wait on man's obedience to Nature!—swift steamers, which have squeezed the ocean into a weekly ferry; telegraph wires, the instant roadways for human thought; X rays, which disclose most hidden things. Man obeys Nature, and how she whelms him with various and strange ability! If we would, in the realm spiritual, thus precisely obey God, what spiritual wonders of experience and power would not the Holy Spirit work in us and for us!—Wayland Hoyt, D. D., in S. S. Times.

—That unpleasant Catarrh with all its annoying and disagreeable symptoms can be speedily relieved and cured with Dr. D. Jayne's Expectorant.

Safe and sure, Jayne's Painless Sanative Pills.

Arborology.

"Now, Thomas," said the teacher, "write me a sentence in which the words pine and butternut are used."

And Thomas wrote:

"The fellow felt almighty tough
When his best girl cut;
First he thought he'd pine away,
And then he thought he'd butternut."

—Detroit Journal.

REMARKABLE HEN.

A Household Pet in a Family at Niles, Mich.

J. T. Doan, a broommaker of Niles, Mich., has a remarkably wise Plymouth Rock hen of which he is justly proud. The hen early in life showed a fondness for deserting its companions and frequenting the Doan homestead. As Mr. and Mrs. Doan have neither a dog nor cat the hen was installed as the family pet, and right royally has she filled the position. At night she occupies the coziest corner in the sitting room, and in the morning she takes upon her the duties of the alarm clock by awaking the family at exactly 5 o'clock by a lusty cackling. The hen does not seem to care for the companionship of the other barnyard fowls, and does not speak to them as they pass by. She is very intelligent and responds at once to the call of the name bestowed upon her by her master and mistress.

AWAKENS THE FAMILY AT EXACTLY FIVE O'CLOCK.

GIRL'S NAMES.

Those Which Are Found to Be Most Common.

The Boston Transcript offers these sensible remarks on the subject of girls' names: "A question which arose in conversation among a lot of people the other evening as to the prevalence of 'fancy names' for girls was referred off-hand to a copy of the catalogue of Smith College, which happened to be lying on the table. In that institution there are 686 girls, from all parts of the country, representing, undoubtedly, the rich and the poor, but more particularly the thoroughly American class of people who are neither rich nor poor."

In this catalogue the Marys, Alices, Mabels, Helens, Berthas, Graces, Ediths and Elizabeths were all counted up. These were found to be much the most common names; and those who believe that women in general are still possessed of as much common sense as they ever were, in spite of the fondness of some women for new and "pretty" names, were pleased to learn from this list that the most beautiful of all names, the name of Mary, is still most commonly borne by young women. There are in Smith College no fewer than 68 Marys, not counting middle names. The next name in popularity was the beautiful one of Alice, which had 27 representatives. Then came Elizabeth, also sufficiently old-fashioned, with 25. The next in rank was Mabel, 22; Grace, 21; and Helen, 21. Seventeen girls bore the English name of Edith—old, but newly revived—and 16 the pretty name of Bertha, which we have borrowed from the Germans. The Dorothys apparently had but a single representative; it will be quite otherwise at Smith College 15 or 20 years from now. So it will be with regard to the name of Marjorie or Margaret, and also with regard to that very new-fangled name, Gladys, which, like "Ella," must be destined to a very short life. It is refreshing to come upon such a combination as Sarah Ann and Martha Jane occasionally in a college catalogue; but the bearers of these names, no doubt, would be very glad to be rid of them. It is so sad to be old fashioned! Let us rejoice that the old fashion of bestowing the name of Mary is always new.

PLUCKINGS FROM PUCK.

King Solomon's Wives.

No. 250—Caught him last night, did she? The artful minx. She's been setting her cap at him for years.

No. 225—Yes; and she had the impudence to tell me she could have married him long before either of us did, but she just made him wait.

Visitor—Chicago doesn't grow on me.

Native (with asperity)—Indeed? Why, they accuse her of growing on almost any pretext.

Johnny—Mamma, this looks as if it would be a big snowstorm, doesn't it?

Mamma—It does, indeed.

Johnny (mournfully)—But I guess there'll never be any more snowstorms like the ones they used to have when grandpa was a boy.

First Pig—And they'll cut us up for pork and use our skins to make footballs.

Second Pig—Well, if they ever make a football out of my skin, I'll be glad I'm not in it.

The Sultan—I'd like to speak to you about the light of the harem.

The Grand Vizer—Ah; the beautiful Fatima?

The Sultan—No; the light of the harem. Don't you think our gas bills are getting altogether too high?

Little Miss Clara—Don't your sister go with that young man any more?

Little Miss Laura—No; and isn't it a shame for her to treat him so, after all the beautiful candy he's brought her?

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY

Take laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. 25 cents.

A YOUNGSTER'S FEAT.

What Will Not a Boy Dare if He Has a Chance?

A mischievous lad climbed to the top of a house in the eastern part of the city last week, says the Detroit Journal, sat on the peak and looked about him. Then he noticed some strips of wood nailed a few inches apart on the roof forming steps by which, at some previous time, workmen were enabled to reach the eaves of the building. The little fellow was of an inquiring turn of mind and thought to enchance the view by looking from the lowermost step. He was soon perched in a precarious position, with his feet dangling in thin air about 50 feet from the ground. To heighten the novelty of his position he just slid from the roof, holding to the step by his hands. This was delightful, but tiresome, and after a moment he tried to draw himself back on the roof, but discovered that the feat was beyond his trength. Then he began to cry bitterly. His mother, attracted by his screams, ran out of the house, and began to cry frantically and scream as though her heart would break. Fortunately for the little daredevil, a man with a ladder was passing, and by means of it he was able in a moment to reach and rescue the child. No sooner had the boy been conveyed safely to the ground than his mother plucked him to her breast and sobbed for joy—for a moment. Then she turned him over her knee and administered what he richly deserved.

Nice of Him.

He—I have been reading The Sorrows of Satan.

She—It's nice of you to take an interest in the troubles of your friends.—Town Topics.

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CURES WHERE ALL ELSE FAILS.
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Take no other,
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Beware of imitations
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[illegible]

IN DEFENSE OF CATS.

In one of the February magazines a cat-lover has an interesting chat about feline pets. Cats are said to be more like men and women than dogs are. They have moods, and their natures are more complex. Canine intelligence is higher than feline, but the dog's disposition is simpler.

Cats are very irritable in temperament and are sensitive to the slightest change in the weather, disliking frost and thunder. They are excitable and apt to scratch and bite in their play. They have also a curious tendency, such as may be observed in excitable and overstrung human beings, to lose their heads when in high spirits, and this peculiarity is said to account, in a large measure, for the reputation they have gained for cruelty.

The cruelty comes, "not from a desire to torture, but to play with the prey; it is primarily something to eat, secondarily something to frisk with." The more motion an object has the better it pleases the cat, then in the excitement of play comes the unintentional torture.

Cats are often charged with coldness and lack of affection, and it is true that they are not so generally affectionate as dogs; they are shy, reserved and "offish," but are capable of passionate and lasting attachment to one or two persons.

TOLEDO BLADE.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1897.

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ROBINSON LOCKE..........Editor.

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CIRCULATION LAST WEEK: 126,000

TO THOSE WHOSE SUBSCRIPTIONS EXPIRE IN FEBRUARY.

By the time this issue of the Weekly Blade reaches its subscribers, a special offer, by postal card, made to all whose subscriptions expire in February, will have been mailed.

Those whose time expires this month, if they do not receive this offer by mail, on or before February 10, are requested to drop us a postal card at once, notifying us of its failure to arrive, and another will be mailed you at once.

It is an offer which every one will find to his interest to read carefully, and then to accept. The Blade is to be better than ever this year!

OUR SEED OFFER.

Read our splendid offer on the fifth page of this issue, and make your arrangements as speedily as possible to take advantage of it.

Those who have purchased seeds of The Blade in previous years do not need to be told that they are fully reliable, and as cheap as the cheapest. You will save money by availing yourself of the offer.

SEED CORN!

In a week or two, we will offer our subscribers seed corn, in a very advantageous way. We will furnish the splendid Early Dent, the best variety of Indian corn, and also Kaffir corn.

The culture of Kaffir corn is increasing, as its value for bread is becoming better known, and also its importance as food for stock. Wait for The Blade's offer!

IGNORANT ALIENS BARRED.

The National House of Representatives has adopted the conference report on the immigration bill, and the Senate will probably take the necessary action to make it a law.

The bill as recommended by the conferees and approved by the House excludes from the United States "all persons physically capable and over 16 years of age who cannot read and write the English language or the language of their native or resident country; but a person not so able to read and write who is over 50 years of age and is the parent or grandparent of a qualified immigrant over 21 years of age, and capable of supporting such parent or grandparent, may accompany such immigrant, or such a parent or grandparent may be sent for and come to join the family of a child or grandchild over 21 years of age similarly qualified and capable."

The most important change made by the conference committee is that extending the educational test to female as well as male immigrants, and it was upon this part of the report that the fight was made upon the floor of the House, members opposing on the ground that such a law will divide families and that it is better for a man to have the society of his wife than his grandparent.

An important feature of the bill to Toledo is the one designed to prevent the "birds of passage" from crossing the Canadian border each spring and returning in the fall. They come to the border cities where wages are higher than at their own homes and in this way are direct competitors of American workmen. They pay no taxes here and contribute nothing to their temporary homes. This amendment is one which the border lake cities appreciate.

A most brazen piece of impudence displayed in connection with the fight against the bill was that of the North German Lloyd Steamship Company, which, through its agents, attempted to bulldoze members of the House to vote against the bill. It was an unjustifiable piece of impertinent meddling on the part of a great corporation which consults its own interests rather than those of the country which gives it thousands of dollars worth of business each year, although it is a foreign company and its steamships does not float an American flag. Yet this corporation had the audacity to threaten Congressmen with political death if they did not vote against the bill.

These steamship companies would like to see free immigration, and although the present bill is in the interest of the people these great corporations are engaged in cheapening American labor come in and attempt bulldozing tactics. It is to the lasting credit of the members of the House that a majority of them refused to accede to such impertinent demands.

In all probability the bill has defects, but it is along right lines. It marks an advance in the right direction and should be made a law.

That the party alignment of the American people is undergoing a change is shown by the position of Senator McEnery, of Louisiana, who will take his seat in the United States Senate on March 4. Judge McEnery is a Democrat, but desires to be counted among the friends of protection to American industries. He has recently defined his position on this issue, and says that, although he believes the tariff should never have been made a political issue, he shall vote for reasonable schedules, which will at once be sufficient for revenue, and conservative of the interests of American labor. This is a gain of two votes to the protective forces in the Senate, as his predecessor, Blanchard, is a rabid free trader.

It will be observed that not an Ohio Democrat is willing to go on record as substantiating the statement made by Mr. Altgeld that Bryan carried Ohio by 40,000 plurality, but was counted out by Republicans. Ohio Democrats know there is not a particle of truth in the statement. They know that Ohio elections are fairly conducted, and that every legal voter can cast his ballot and have it counted as cast. The Democratic press publish Altgeld's vaporings, but they dare not say there is any truth in them.

SECRETARY GAGE.

President-elect McKinley began the work of selecting his Cabinet with the firm intention of putting a Western man at the head of the Treasury department. This was a politic resolve. Even among the Republicans of the trans-Mississippi states, as well as universally among the Populists and Popocrats, there is a strong feeling against the primacy of New York city in monetary affairs, and a wide-spread belief that "Wall street" dictates the financial policy of the government.

Probably a desire to disarm this feeling, however erroneous it may be, was the primary factor in leading McMinley to this decision. His expressed desire is to be the President of the whole people, the enemy of none, and to do that which is best for the country as a whole in all matters affecting the conditions of prosperity. And he knows that to choose a New York man as the head of the Treasury department would be to prejudice a very large number of people against him and his administration.

In the selection of Lyman J. Gage for Secretary of the Treasury, Major McKinley has made no error as to his ability and experience. He is at the head of the largest national bank in the United States outside of New York—the First National, of Chicago; he is a man of the highest standing in every respect, enjoying the respect and confidence of every one. He is in every way well fitted for the onerous duties of the head of the Treasury. He has been selected, not because he was a politician, but because he is eminently qualified in all ways for the place.

The appointment is not liked by some of the politicians, because Mr. Gage has not always, in the past, been a straight party man in the Republican ranks. Some of those who kick at his appointment affect to consider him a Democrat, but this is false. He has been charged with free trade leanings, but we know that on the matter of the tariff policy to be pursued by the new administration, he is in perfect accord with the President-elect; and on financial questions they are also in full agreement. Let the politicians howl. The people are with McKinley in selecting for his confidential advisers the men who suit him, and who are eminently fitted for the positions.

GAGE'S POLITICS.

There is an erroneous impression abroad that the new Secretary of the Treasury, Lyman J. Gage, is either a Democrat or a free trade mugwump. Neither of these views is correct. He is a Republican voter. That is to say, he is a believer in the cardinal principles of the Republican party. He is not a Democrat, but a "democrat"—that is, taking the word in its original meaning of one in favor of "government by the people," which is the signification of the word. Here are his own words as to his political belief:

"I am a democrat in the sense that I believe in a government of the people, by the people and for the people. I do not believe in paternalism in government. As to parties, I have never voted any other than a Republican ticket, except once, and that was in 1884, when I voted for Grover Cleveland. I voted for Harrison in 1892, and, of course, for McKinley in 1896. The platform of the last Republican national convention embodies my present ideas as applied to the political issues then and now before the country.

"Under the constitution, revenue can not be raised by direct taxation. We are obliged, therefore, to resort to indirect taxation, and no form of indirect taxation is less burdensome or more practical than the imposition of duties on foreign imports. This taxation should be so ordered, however, as not to foster monopolies, breed trusts, or favor the few at the expense of the many.

"I do not know how I can express my ideas more clearly than by saying that I believe in the raising of revenue by customs duties, so levied as to promote the general welfare by equalizing the difference between American and foreign labor."

Mr. Gage's views on the tariff and the raising of revenue are in exact accord with those stated by President-elect McKinley during the campaign. There is nothing in his exposition of his opinions but will meet with the earnest and hearty commendation of every Republican. And if he makes as good a head of the Treasury as he has proved himself in conducting the vast interests committed to his care in Chicago, his name will be linked in history with that of Alexander Hamilton, who first held that position, and established on a sound basis the finances of the infant republic.

A GOOD PROGRAMME.

Chairman Dingley, of the House ways and means committee, has outlined the programme of the incoming administration regarding the extra session of Congress, to be called about March 25. He says:

> There will be no general legislation during the extra session. President McKinley will call Congress in extraordinary session for the specific purpose of passing a revenue bill. When we meet in March the bill will be ready to present to the House, and it will be passed within thirty days and sent to the Senate.
>
> Nothing else will be done by the House. We will adjourn from day to day, or take three days' adjournments, according to the provision of the constitution. The eyes of the country will be on the Senate alone. The House will not consider pension bills nor enter into any general legislation.
>
> We will simply remain nominally in session until the Senate reaches a conclusion on the revenue bill, and then the measure will go into a conference, where it will be perfected in a manner to suit both Houses of Congress. I do not believe that the Senate will force a long session when nothing is under consideration except the tariff bill.

This indicates the belief of the President-elect that the financial troubles are merely secondary to the derangement of the government revenues created by the Wilson law, and that a new tariff law, furnishing the government with abundant revenue, will cure the monetary ills.

There are many who find the causes of the latter in things entirely disconnected with the revenue. However, if speed is made with the tariff law, by the time Congress meets in regular session next December it will have become clear whether special financial legislation is necessary, and the attention of Congress can be devoted to currency reform.

John Wanamaker will build a church to show his gratitude for the escape of his establishment from destruction by fire. John appears to think he is especially favored by the Almighty. Were the people whose building was totally destroyed across the street conspicuous as sinners, that they received a scorching as punishment?

It is not fair to attribute the cold wave to the Wilson tariff law, but it is a fact that it is responsible for the condition of many poor people who are unprepared for such bitter weather.

NEW BLADE PRESSES.

This Paper is Printed On the First of These Mechanical Marvels.

This issue of The Weekly Blade is printed upon the first of our two new Goss three-deck Straightline presses, which has just been placed in position.

The shape and size of the page are changed, as the reader has probably noticed. The columns are not quite so long; but each column is wider, thus widening the page, so that the actual amount of reading matter in the paper is just the same.

The Goss press is a Chicago invention, and, like the city from which it hails, it is up with the times in every respect. The Eastern press builders no longer have the lead in the production of printing machines adapted to all the demands of a great modern newspaper. The Goss Company is now engaged in building a new press for the New York Herald, of precisely the pattern of those now being installed in The Blade's press room. And one may be sure that none but the best built, the most rapid, and the most complete machines would be purchased by James Gordon Bennett.

The Goss press is called the "Straightline," because the cylinders carrying the stereotype plates, and the impression cylinders, are arranged in a straight line—a feature which is peculiar to them, and which adds to their compactness and simplicity. The Blade's presses are "three-deckers;" that is, there are three ranges of cylinders on each press, arranged one above the other, and each taking papers from a separate roll. Each "deck," or line of cylinders, prints an eight-page sheet; so that the three decks, when all are runnings, turn out a twenty-four page paper. Slight and easily-made changes enable the pressman to turn out a paper of any number of pages desired.

This issue of The Blade is printed on the first of these two marvels of modern mechanism. One of our old presses was removed, and the new Goss machine installed in its place—The Blade, meanwhile, being printed on the remaining old press. This will be at once taken down, and the second Goss press put in its place. Hence, in about two weeks, the two new giants will be at work, turning out The Blade at a speed of from 24,000 to 48,000 papers per hour, according to the number of pages in each.

SECRETARY ALGER.

Gen. Russell A. Alger, of Michigan, is to be the next Secretary of War. This selection reveals the fact that President-elect McKinley is determined to have the great "Middle West"—the battle-ground of the campaign which resulted in his triumphant election—fully represented in his Cabinet. The first three men chosen are all from that section—Sherman of Ohio, Gage of Illinois, and Alger of Michigan.

The latter state was one in which the battle was most stubborn, and the victory a decisive one. Recognition of the splendid work done by the Michigan Republicans is proper, and could take no more marked form than by the bestowal of a Cabinet position. Naturally, Gen. Alger's name was the first to suggest itself, because he is the foremost Republican of the state.

His business ability is recognized by all; and it will find fitting scope in his new field of official work. Mr. Lamont, the present Secretary of War, has been extremely efficient, and he has begun a number of reforms in his department which it will fall to the lot of Secretary Alger to carry out. That this will be done thoroughly and well is conceded by all who know him, Republicans and Democrats alike. His appointment will be well received by the country.

CHICAGO OPINION OF GAGE.

The sentiment among the business men and Republicans of Chicago, outside of the professional politicians, on the appointment of Lyman J. Gage to the treasury, is clearly shown in the following editorial extract from the Chicago Post:

> In the selection of Mr. Gage for the treasury, Major McKinley has done more than secure an admirable chief for that great trust. His choice marks his determination to recognize the patriotism of that large body of independent voters who subordinated all differences of opinion on the tariff and other questions of national policy to stand together with the Republican party for the financial honor and honesty of the American nation. It was on the financial question alone that the independent Republicans and Democrats in every state in the Union voted solidly for McKinley and the Republican ticket. And it is a happy conjunction, the man and the circumstances, that makes Mr. Gage at once the fittest man for the place on his personal qualifications, and makes his appointment an earnest recognition of Major McKinley's appreciation of the patriotic support given him by the independents.
>
> That Mr. Gage's appointment will bring confidence and strength to the next administration we cannot doubt. He accepts the position at a sacrifice of personal fortune and inclination. He goes into office with no pet theories to try upon a monetary situation that needs stability and rest more than anything else. All his recent life he has been a trustee of large affairs, and he brings to the crowning trust of his career a mind trained by study and experience with just those problems that will confront him in the treasury.

NEVADA'S DISGRACE.

"What is the matter with Kansas?" must now give way to the question, "What is the matter with Nevada?" That state, of course, gave its electoral vote to Mr. Bryan; it also elected a free silver legislature. Yesterday the lower branch of that assembly passed a bill by a vote of 20 to 8 licensing prize fighting. Of course the bill says "glove contests," but the measure makes it lawful for prize fighting to be pulled off by the payment of $1,000 license. The bill will pass the Senate and will become a law.

Nevada should be ashamed of herself. While other states are passing laws making prize fighting a crime and prohibiting them this hotbed of free silverism legalizes the brutal sport and invites all the plug uglies of the country to come there. The law is formulated at this time for the purpose of securing the Corbett-Fitzsimmons fight.

Nevada is a disgrace to the Union.

The national Board of Trade adopted a resolution urging Congress to establish a monetary commission of eleven members, consisting of two senators, two representatives, two agriculturists, two merchants or manufacturers and one expert political economist. The only objection to the commission plan is the delay it involves. Currency reform should not be postponed beyond the session of Congress of next December.

THE EXTRA SESSION.

It is well understood that President-elect McKinley intends to call an extra session of the Fifty-fifth Congress very shortly after his inauguration, to take prompt action on the tariff question. Now comes the information that the date of its convening will be March 25. It is the intention that the members of the present House who were re-elected may have time to visit their homes, gauge public sentiment on the tariff question, and thus be able to act promptly and intelligently when the extra session begins.

The conditions to be met need the most careful consideration. First and foremost is the steadily-increasing Treasury deficit. The new tariff must produce abundant revenue—ample for all current needs of the government, and for the sinking fund; for in a few years a large issue of government bonds becomes due, which should be paid off, and the annual interest burden reduced as far as possible. Nothing should be allowed to stand in the way of getting the nation out of debt as promptly as it can be done.

That is where the new tariff measure touches the government's needs. On the side of the people its importance can not be magnified. It must restore the conditions on which the prosperity of the masses of our mechanics and farmers rest. The depression in our great industrial interests has resulted in idleness to tens of thousands, the destruction of their incomes, and to this must be added the enormous shrinkage of all values.

These things have all followed as the direct result of the Wilson-Gorman tariff law. The loss has been unprecedented. It is believed that there has been a shrinkage of $5,000,000,000 since 1892. How far this shrinkage can be overcome by legislation is impossible to forecast. But the problem of more work, better wages, and consequently an improvement in the purchasing ability of the masses must be considered by Congress in passing the new tariff bill.

As every one knows, the ways and means committee of the present House is now hard at work preparing a tariff measure. The members of that committee have all been re-elected to the next House, and it is custom to continue them on the same committee. Hence the new ways and means committee will have the same make-up as at present, and the work of drafting the bill will not be interrupted.

The bill will be presented in the House very shortly after that body is organized, and the discussion of its provisions will be promptly begun. How long a time this will take cannot be predicted; but the Republican majority in the House is fully alive to the need of prompt relief, and we may expect to see the bill passed and sent to the Senate by the end of April, if not earlier.

The Senate is the weak spot. The free silver Senators may make a combine to "hold up" the tariff bill unless a free silver rider is added; but at present it does not seem possible to prevent the passage of this bill. In the first place, the silver Senators know that no free silver bill can pass the House, and that, even if it did, President McKinley would unhesitatingly veto it. The most of them are protectionists, and they will, we are assured, pass the tariff measure without any futile attempt to "do something for silver."

So it seems reasonably certain that the tariff bill will become a law in time to go into operation with the beginning of the new fiscal year, on July 1.

BURNT POWDER.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer, in an article on low prices, alleges the following as the cause, in its summing up of the whole matter:

> The destruction of one-half of the money of final redemption is the cause of the reduction in prices of the staple products of the world, our own country included, of course.

The Plain Dealer could not have packed more error into four lines than it has done in the above. The cause it assigns is false, because "one-half the money of final redemption" has not been destroyed. We have more money of final redemption to-day in the United States than we ever had at any time before the year 1873, whether we compare the actual volume or the per capita.

The prices of commodities do not depend upon the volume of money of final redemption in the slightest degree, nor is there any proof that they do. The Plain Dealer ignores the two things which do fix prices—supply and demand.

On the other hand, if the Plain Dealer's assumption were true—if half the money of final redemption in the world has been destroyed—how will the free coinage of silver in the United States remedy it? We can not compel all other nations to adopt free coinage at 16 to 1, and all the coining of silver we can do could not fill the alleged gap in the world's money—which does not exist, by the way.

Why can not the Plain Dealer drop the demagogic untruths of the late campaign, and talk common sense for a while? Does it suppose the majority of the people are still to be duped by the fallacies which were fully exposed and exploded last summer and fall?

THE CRUISER BROOKLYN.

The accident to the splendid new naval vessel, the Brooklyn, coming after similar experiences with the Texas, can mean but one thing: That there is a lack of necessary experience and skill in handling these great floating fighting machines.

The modern war vessel is the most complex product of marine architecture. It has dozens of steam engines, electrical machinery of all kinds, and is therefore a combination of a modern machine shop of the highest grade, an electrical plant, and a war vessel. In this complexity lies the need of long training in handling such vessels. They should be sent on cruises sufficiently long to allow of the acquisition of this practical knowledge, which can be obtained in no other way.

The president sent to the senate a list of the persons, claiming to be citizens of the United States, who have been arrested in Cuba since February 24, 1895. There are seventy-four such persons. It is notable that there are no English subjects imprisoned by the Spanish tyrant. England does not palter in any such case. If a man be a British subject, his rights can not be ignored by a foreign government longer than it takes to send a war vessel, or a squadron, to demand his release. We heartily wish there was sufficient backbone at Washington to carry out the same course.

The deficit in the revenues for the first 23 days of January was nearly $8,000,000. The need of an extra session of Congress is thus being demonstrated day by day.

By next week Mr. Altgeld will declare that McKinley carried Pennsylvania by fraud.

A CLUMSY FORGERY.

Some days ago a letter was sent over the country purporting to have been signed by Major McKinley and sent to the inaugural committee. This letter protested against the expenditure of $50,000 on the inaugural ball and suggested that the money begiven to charity.

The letter was not widely published and received but few comments for the reason that it was not generally believed Mr. McKinley did not know that the $50,000 guarantee fund is never called on for any purpose, as the inaugural balls are always self-supporting; in other words those who dance must pay the fiddler.

The report now comes from Canton that the letter was a forgery, and that an effort is being made to detect the forger. What the object could be in forging such a letter is not clear and its only result has been to place the President-elect in a ridiculous position.

The government might try land lubbers to manage her steamships. They could do no worse than the so-called sailors are now doing.

COMMENT OF THE WEEK.

Inauguration day is still a little over a month ahead, but the President-elect has already definitely determined upon the personnel of the most important members of his Cabinet. Senator Sherman is to be Secretary of State, Mr. Lyman J. Gage, of Chicago, Secretary of the Treasury, and Gen. Russell A. Alger, of Michigan, Secretary of War.

President-elect McKinley has proceeded in the formation of his Cabinet in the regular order of precedence as laid down by the Presidential succession act of January, 1886. This provides that in case of the removal, death, resignation or inability of both President and Vice President, a member of his Cabinet shall act as President in the following order: Secretary of State, secretary of the Treasury, secretary of War, Attorney General, Postmaster General, secretary of the Navy, and secretary of the Interior. If he continues in this order we will next hear of the selection and acceptance of the office of Attorney General.

There is now no longer any doubt that an extra session will be called by Mr. McKinley shortly after his inauguration, March 15 or March 25 being the date set by current rumor for the convening of Congress. A tariff bill will be at once introduced, and the work of the session will be confined to the discussion and passage of that measure unless some legislation of importance for which there is a pressing need should be brought forward by the party managers. It is thought best to confine the work of Congress to action upon the tariff bill, in order to allow of its passage in time to go into operation with the beginning of the next fiscal year; that is, in case the Senate should be willing to expedite the measure. Advices from Washington indicate that the tariff bill has been already well progressed as far as general outlines are concerned. It has long been known, of course, that Mr. Dingley began work upon the new bill some time ago, and it is understood that in order to avoid possible obstacles and antagonisms in the Senate, Senator Aldrich, of Rhode Island, has been giving the chairman of the Ways and Means committee the benefit of his counsel.

The Senate committee on Foreign Relations on Saturday agreed to report favorably on the arbitration treaty, with amendments. All but two of the amendments are merely verbal. One of the two which are essential strikes out the clause providing for the selection of King Oscar as umpire, leaving it to the two powers to select an umpire when one is considered necessary.

The other important amendment is an addition to article 1 of the treaty, and reads as follows:

> "No question which affects the foreign or domestic policy of either of the contracting parties or the relations of either with any other state or power, by treaty or otherwise, shall be subject to arbitration under this treaty except by special agreement."

This amendment was agreed to by the unanimous vote of the committee. The amendment eliminating the umpire clause was agreed to by a vote of 9 to 1. The vote in opposition to striking out the King Oscar clause is understood to have been cast by Senator Gray, of Delaware. The vote on the motion to report the treaty favorably, as amended, was 6 to 4.

The final steps in the conclusion of the Venezuelan arbitration treaty have been taken, and it is understood that Chief-Justice Fuller and Justice Brewer have been agreed upon as arbitrators on the part of Venezuela. There has been some delay in the appointment of arbitrators for Great Britain. After these have been selected and the names of the arbitrators have been inserted in the treaty, in compliance with the demand of Venezuela, the document will be sent to that country for ratification by the Congress.

Extradition treaties negotiated some time ago with the Orange Free State and the Argentine Republic were ratified by the Senate last week. There has been a difference of opinion between the State department and the Senate regarding one of the stipulations in the treaty which is said to have been inserted at the request of the President and which required either government without the exercise of discretion to give up its own citizens on demand in proper form from the other contracting party. According to accounts from Washington the Senate amended the text of the treaty some weeks ago so as to prevent the surrender of the citizens or subjects of the country against whom the demand was made. This action was unsatisfactory to the State department, and the Senate was asked to reconsider the conventions. As a result of the discussion the Senate permitted its change to stand, but added a clause making it discretionary with the surrendering government whether it should give up its own citizens, and as thus amended the treaty was finally ratified.

Senator Thurston rebels against the instruction of the Nebraska legislature with regard to his vote on silver. He raises an interesting question by declaring that this legislature is not the one that elected him and does not represent the party that elected him.

Exactly 50 of the 90 Senator voted Friday on the international money conference bill. Notwithstanding the fact that only five-ninths of the Senate voted at all, yet the affirmative vote reached a majority of two of the whole body. The actual vote was 46 to 4. Those voting against the bill were Roach, Vilas, Allen and Pettigrew—two Democrats and two Populists. The original bill simply provided that whenever the President "shall determine that the United States should be represented at any international conference called by the United States or any other country" he "is hereby authorized to appoint five or more commissioners to such international conference." To this the Senate has added an amendment declaring that the President of the United States is hereby authorized to call, in his discretion, such international conference to assemble at such points as may be agreed upon.

The acceptance by the House of the conference report on the restricted immigration bill doubtless insures its being made law, as the Senate has already passed practically the same measure. The majority for it in the House was small—131 to 117—but the principle of submitting immigrants to an educational test of some kind has undoubtedly found great popular favor, and may now be expected to remain a part of our public policy. The bill itself, as was pointed out in the debate, appears to threaten some hardships at first in the way of separating families, and it certainly contains one huge absurdity—that of excepting immigrants from Cuba so long as the revolution is in existence. This sentimental clause might be taken as a reflection on the literacy of the Cuban patriots, but it is really no more so than the official Cuban statistics, which show that upwards of 70 per cent of the population can neither read nor write.

The last two years have not been precisely booming in general business, but they have witnessed the greatest distribution of electrical power ever known. Two years ago the number of electric railroads in the United States was estimated by an electrical engineer at 850, with 9,000 miles of track and over $400,000,000 of capital. To-day there are believed to be 13,000 miles of track, and the amount of capital invested last year alone is said to be $33,000,000. These are good figures for a bad year.

The addition of ten new open-hearth steel furnaces to the capacity of the steel-making plants already in existence at Youngstown, O., does not necessarily imply that the iron and steel industry is about to take advantage of a new tariff on this metal. There are indications that American steel relies more on finding an outlet in the foreign market than to limiting its product to suit the demands of those who cannot sell against competition either in the United States or abroad.

There were 207 new textile mills built in the United States last year, including sixty-six cotton mills, thirty-one woolen, eighty-five knitting, seventeen silk and eight miscellaneous. This looks as if American manufacturers had faith in the future, even before November 3.

Wheat prices went down last week steadily and rather rapidly. The average loss was about six cents per bushel. The foreign demand for both flour and the grain has diminished, and is to be smaller, probably, in the next few weeks than at any time since last spering. It would be wrong to say that the unexpected has happened, though the statements from the markets invariably contain announcements that the brokers and the large elevator and exporting houses are surprised. The fact is that May wheat has been kept at an eighty-cent level only by figuring out that such and such an amount of flour and grain would be wanted by Europe to piece out home supplies. The rise which carried the December and January options up to seventy-five cents last fall was due exclusively to the foreign demand. The quotations did not fall off as long as that trade continued active. But the advent of the Argentine crop is now the principal factor in the European market, and the receipts from this country will not be larger than a hand-to-mouth trading policy makes necessary until the South American crop is calculated.

Russia's preparations to adopt the gold standard are described in the last budget report of the minister of finance. He refers to the conflicting rumors set afloat about serious changes in the plan, and affirms that the main purpose—to fix the price of paper in gold—cannot be changed. M. Witte admits, however, that some features of the bill are undergoing revision by the council of state. But the chief thing is to accustom the Russian commercial public to the gold standard. This has been accomplished, in part, by the gradual assumption by the state bank of the duty of cashing paper money in gold on demand, at the rate of 1 ruble gold to 1½ in paper. While the total note circulation amounts to 1,121,300,000 rubles, the treasury's stock of gold now stands at 804,000,000 rubles, of which an amount equal to 70 per cent of the paper currency is designated for its redemption. The minister's description of the financial condition of Russia is rose-colored, the receipts, according to him, having risen far beyond the estimates, with everything promising in the future. Some of his staetments are rather sharply challenged by the London Economist, though it admits that the success of the Siberian railway and the surprising agricultural and industrial developments along its line almost justify the minister's extravagant prophecies.

It is somewhat singular that Russia has not, up to the present, had a general census, the first undertaking of that kind having only been authorized within a month. The census is to be completed by February 9, or January 28, according to the Russian computation. It is to include all the inhabitants, without exception, of all the Russion dominions, and is to contain a full and exact computation of the population of the country according to the different regions, governments, districts and villages, and also according to the ages, sex and professions, religions, nationality, occupations and other indications mentioned in the census blanks. The computation of the general census is intended to serve the empire, and governmental and social institutions established by it, as among the important measures taken for its welfare. Of course the interest of the undertaking must be mainly national, but it will furnish information which will not be neglected elsewhere regarding one of the most potent factors in the affairs of the old world.

Persons who like to study big figures will be interested in an article in the Pall Mall Gazette about the national debts of the world. From statistics that appear to be trustworthy, and some of which have been obtained by the Gazette at first hand, it is computed that the total of all national debts at the end of 1895 was $29,000,000,000. The most heavily burdened nation, as probably everybody knows, is France, with her debt of $6,000,000,000. Next comes Great Britain with $3,300,000,000, then Russia with $2,875,000,000; then, if Austria and Hungary be counted separately, Italy, with $2,525,000,000; and then the United States, with $1,695,000,000. In spite of a considerable reduction of the English, American, Spanish and German debts, the total for all nations increased between 1875 and 1895 from $23,750,000,000 to the sum stated above. The finite human mind rather staggers under such big figures and must almost give up in despair when asked to consider what are the probabilities that these enormous obligations will ever be paid off.

More and more, as the conflict in Cuba proceeds, does it become apparent that there can be but one issue, and that the independence of the island; but as this is more clearly revealed the more atrocious does the conduct of the governor-general become. There is no need to comment, day by day, upon the constantly recurring proofs of his cruelty, his treachery, and his utter insensibility to the canons of civilized warfare. He is a beast, and worse than a beast, in his ferocity and shamelessness. Not by such methods as he employs, can a freedom loving people be subdued. Now, as it ever has been, is it true that the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church. Every murder and burning and pillage are the strengthening proofs that Cuba will be emancipated from the yoke of Spain before many months have passed.

It is the custom in Turkey to strangle the male children of all the male relatives of the sultan as soon as they are born, to the end that no aspirants to the throne may arise in the collateral line. The present sultan approves the practice and sees that it is rigidly carried out—and this is the kind of a sweet creature that England and other civilized and Christian powers of Europe are keeping on the throne. If they didn't prop him up he would be kicked off very quickly.

BOTANICAL WONDERS.

Madake, a Japanese species of bamboo, grows to a height of 40 feet.

The flower stalk of the Adam's needle bears from 200 to 400 flowers in a season.

The kernel of the snake nut, a Brazilian oddity, looks exactly like a coiled serpent.

Every head of red clover consists of about 50 flower tubes, each of which contains an infinitesimal quantity of honey.

A curious-shaped plant growing in Arizona and other desert regions of the great Southwest is called "Our Lord's Candlestick."

The leading botanists of the world are unanimous in the opinion that plants grow faster between 4 and 6 o'clock a. m. than at any other time.

Bishop Culver, in his pamphlet entitled "A Million Pounds Sterling for a Black Flower," says that no perfectly black flower has ever been produced.

Thos. Slater's offer on page 3 is a beacon of hope to all men.

"BUCK- SHOT."

—Copyrighted.

THE IMMIGRATION BILL.

For some time past Congress has been considering the question of immigration. The following is the bill as agreed upon by the conference committees of the Senate and House. The House has passed it, and the concurrence of the Senate is expected:

> An act to amend the immigration laws of the United States.
>
> Be it enacted that section 1 of the act of March 2, 1893, in amendment of the immigration and contract labor acts, be, and hereby is, amended by adding to the classes of aliens thereby excluded from admission to the United States the following:
>
> All persons physically capable and over 16 years of age who cannot read and write the English language or the language of their native or resident country; but a person not so able to read and write who is over fifty years of age and is the parent or grandparent of a qualified immigrant over 21 years of age and capable of supporting such parent or grandparent may accompany such immigrant, or such a parent or grandparent may be sent for and come to join the family of a child or grandchild over 21 years of age, similarly qualified and capable.
>
> Sec. 2. For the purpose of testing the ability of the immigrant to read and write, as required by the foregoing section, the inspection officers shall be furnished with copies of the constitution of the United States, printed on numbered uniform pasteboard slips, each containing not less than twenty nor more than twenty-five words of said constitution, printed in the various languages of the immigrants in double small pica type. These slips shall be kept in boxes made for that purpose and so constructed as to conceal the slips from view, each box to contain slips of but one language, and the immigrant may designate the language in which he prefers the test shall be made. Each immigrant shall be required to draw one of said slips from the box and read, and afterward write out in full view of the immigration officers, the words printed thereon. Each slip shall be returned to the box immediately after the contest is finished, and the contents of the box shall be shaken up by an inspection officer before another drawing is made. No immigrant failing to read and write out the slip thus drawn by him shall be admitted, but he shall be returned to the country from which he came at the expense of the steamship or railroad company which brought him, as now provided by law. The inspection officers shall keep in each box at all times a full number of said printed pasteboard slips, and in the case of each excluded immigrant shall keep a certified memorandum of the number of the slip which the said immigrant failed to read or copy out in writing. If in any case, from any unavoidable cause, the foregoing slips are not at hand for use, the inspection officers are not at hand for use, the inspection officers shall carefully and thoroughly test the ability of the immigrant to read and write, using the most appropriate and available means at their command, and shall state fully in writing the reasons why the slips are lacking, and describe the substitute method adopted for testing the ability of the immigrant.
>
> Sec. 3.—That the provisions of the act of March 3, 1893, to facilitate the enforcement of the immigration and contract-labor laws, shall apply to the persons mentioned in Section 1 of this act.
>
> Sec. 4.—That it shall hereafter be unlawful for any male alien, who has not in good faith made his declaration before the proper court of his intention to become a citizen of the United States, to be employed on any public works of the United States, or to come regularly or habitually into the United States by land or water for the purpose of engaging in any mechanical trade or manual labor, for wages or salary, returning from time to time to a foreign country.
>
> Sec. 5.—That it shall be unlawful for any person, partnership, company, or corporation knowingly to employ any alien coming into the United States in violation of the next preceding section of this act; provided, that the provisions of this act shall not apply to the employment of sailors, deck hands, or other employes of vessels, or railroad train hands, such as conductors, engineers, brakemen, firemen, or baggagemen, whose duties require them to pass over the frontier to reach the termini of their runs, or to boatmen or guides on the lakes and rivers on the northern border of the United States.
>
> Sec. 6.—That any violation of the provisions of Sections 4 and 5 of this act by any alien or citizen shall be deemed a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not exceeding $500, or by imprisonment for the term of not exceeding one year, or by both, such fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court; provided, that all persons convicted of a violation of Section 4 of this act shall be deported to the country whence they came.
>
> Sec. 7.—That, notwithstanding the provisions of this or any other existing law, the secretary of the treasury may permit aliens to enter this country for the purpose of teaching new arts or industries under such rules and regulations as he may provide.
>
> Sec. 8.—That this act shall not apply to persons arriving in the United States from any port or place in the island of Cuba during the continuance of the present disorders there who have heretofore been inhabitants of that island.
>
> Sec. 9.—That any alien who shall, in violation of this act, or any other existing law, secure entry into the United States without inspection or examination, collusion, deception, or fraud, may be taken into custody by the properly authorized immigration officers within thirty days after the facts become known to them; and such alien, upon a special inquiry at the most convenient place, conducted according to Section 5 of the immigration act of March 3, 1891, shall be dealt with as provided by law for alien immigrants upon their first arrival.
>
> Sec. 10.—That this act shall take effect July 1, 1897.

WHERE CORK COMES FROM.

The great cork forests of the world are in southern Europe, especially in Spain and Portugal. The trees will grow and even thrive in America, but the cork produced is of inferior quality.

The Spanish cork forests cover an area of 620,000 square acres, those of Catalonia and Barcelona taking first rank. Cork trees growing near the seacoast are subject to a fungous growth which renders their product useless for purposes of commerce.

Cork trees are not strong enough to stand the operation of barking till they are fifteen years old. After that time they may be barked every three years without detriment and will continue to thrive and bear for about 150 years.

Cork of the first stripping is called corona or virgin cork; that of the second stripping is known as pelas. The work of removing the bark from the trees is done in summer time by men, who are paid about 50 cents a day. After the bark is stripped it is boiled, sometimes in the woods, but more often in large caldrons at the cork factories, for the purpose of increasing its thickness and elasticity.

In Spain, Italy, Turkey, Morocco and Algeria, the countries where cork is most plentiful, it is used for many things besides bottle stoppers. For instance, bee-hives, kitchen pails, culinary utensils, coffins, images, crosses, cabins, drinking vessels, pillows, shoes, armor, boats and many articles of furniture are made from cork.

The millennium is approaching! Even the New York Post is pleased with the appointment of Mr. Gage.

Where is Dela? It is time for him to do something to keep him in public remembrance.

CURRENT EVENTS.

Red hats were first worn by cardinals in the year 1245.

Bath, Me., claims a 13-months-old baby able to play the harmonica.

Eighty-five per cent of the people who are lame are affected on the left side.

Last year 14,094,918 head of cattle were delivered at the Chicago stock yards.

The average ballet girl is seldom or never ill. So says a writer in Mr. Jerome's paper.

An electric omnibus, which goes four miles in half an hour, is now running in the London streets.

The Thames of England is 220 miles long. The river of the same name in Canada is 160 miles long.

Twenty years ago there were only 528 miles of railroad open in South Africa; now there are 2,500 miles.

Women sailors are employed in Norway, Denmark and Finland and are found to be excellent mariners.

The maximum speed of the swallow is fixed by Prof. Spallanzani, the Italian ornithologist, at 200 feet per second.

Only 1,892 new miles of railway were built in the United States last year—a smaller number than in any year since 1875.

Last year's output of American built and registered vessels was the greatest known in the last 14 years, with two exceptions.

The new organ of the Church of St. Ignatius, San Francisco, weighs more than 100,000 pounds, and has more than 5,000 pipes.

Don, a dog, has carried mail between the office of G. E. Simpson and the postoffice at East Sullivan, Me., for more than a year.

The British isles comprise no fewer than 1,000 separate islands and islets, without counting mere jutting rocks or isolated pinnacles.

An enterprising young physician of Warsaw, Ill., has built a private telephone line connecting his office with the houses of all his country patients.

Australia had last year 9,700 miles of railway open. The capital expended on them has been $537,000,000, the net revenue over working expenses is 2¾ per cent.

In Bulgaria the proprietors of a medicine, by which they claim to cure a specified disease, are liable to imprisonment if the medicine fails to produce the desired effect.

At a meeting the other day a Belgian company declared its inability to pay a dividend because of the hard times and the "severe competition in gambling in Belgium."

In 25 years the Baptists of Boston have increased in number 110 per cent, the Methodists 107 per cent, the Episcopalians 122 per cent and the Presbyterians 275 per cent.

In Europe the number of inhabitants to the square mile is 95; in Asia it is 48; in Africa it is 15; in America it is 8; in Oceanica and the polar regions it is 3; in Australia only 1.

The annual report of the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce states that 90 per cent of the razors used in the Australian Colonies are supplied by Germany and the United States.

A female highwayman described as "of herculean proportions and of extraordinary bravado," is holding up coaches between Brussels and Antwerp, and attacking solitary houses.

While the population of France remains nearly stationary, the consumption of tobacco increases by leaps and bounds. During 1896 the French consumed over 20,000 tons of tobacco.

The lowest temperature ever reported was on December 20, 1871, and was experienced by Prof. Gorochon. He was at Werchojansk, Siberia, and the temperature was 81 degrees below zero.

A citizen of Moscow, Mr. Filitzen, has petitioned the municipal council to limit the charges of undertakers. He says that a decent funeral costs $80, while the actual cost is only $16.

Kindling wood placed in the stove at the hospital of the Soldiers' Orphans' Home at Atchison, when the home was opened six years ago, is there yet, no occasion to use the hospital having arisen.

A mining prospector, whose experience is said to cover almost every mining region of the Northwest, has been lately waxing enthusiastic over the future of the Cascade range in Oregon as a gold producing section.

People in Australia are great tea drinkers. In New South Wales the average annual consumption is over eight pounds per head. Sugar is also largely consumed, the annual quantity per head being over nine pounds.

It is doubtful whether the horse is now anywhere found in its native state, the wild horses of the steppes of Tartary and other regions of the Old World being possibly descendants of animals escaped from domestication.

The speed of the "quick step" in the French infantry has been reduced from 128 to 120 paces per minute. The "quick step" dates from 1791, when it was fixed at 90 paces. The First Napoleon insisted upon it at drills and parades.

A steel plate has just been turned out by an English firm that is said to be the largest ever made. After shearing it measures 76 feet 6 inches by 5 feet, and is six-tenths of an inch thick; it is without a flaw and weighs five and a half tons.

John Mills, as administrator of his father's estate, has sold at Rome, Ga., a bale of cotton which his father raised in 1872. The father refused to sell at 22 cents, deeming the price too low, and had held it for a rise. It was sold at 5 4-5 cents.

Jean Dhennin, who served out a sentence of fifteen years' hard labor for trying to blow up Napoleon III. with an infernal machine on a railroad train near Douai in 1853, recently blew out his brains at Lille. He was 77 years of age and well to do.

In the ninth century they began to shoe horses, but strange to say, only in time of frost. King William I. introduced horseshoeing into England, and six horseshoes are on the coat of arms of the man to whom William gave vast estates for shoeing his horses in this way.

King Humbert of Italy holds the record of having shot the largest Ibex ever seen. The horns measure 35 inches in length, the circumference at the base is 9 inches, and the distance between the horns 27 inches. He has also shot the second best specimen whose horns measure 34 inches.

Cardinal Svampa, Archbishop of Bologna, is looked upon by the superstitious as Pope Leo's successor. His name means "flames up," and the next Pope is designated in the book of prophecies as Ignis ardens. Moreover, he was previously Bishop of Forli, whose patron is the Madonna of the Fire.

Glass houses of a very substantial kind can now be built. Silesian glassmakers are turning out glass bricks for all sorts of building purposes, claiming for them such advantages as variety of shape, free transmission of light, strength, cheapness and general adaptability. Where complete diffusion of light is needed, as in factories, conservatories, courtyards, etc., they are specially suitable.

A puritanical wave is spreading over the Catholic church. The Pope has ordered a curfew bell to be rung in Rome, after which no priest shall appear out of doors. All priests not belonging to the Roman diocese or having other regular employment there are ordered to leave the city under penalty of suspension. Cardinal Richard, Archbishop of Paris, has forbidden priests in his diocese from appearing in public without their cassocks, which shuts them out from the theaters, but they may go to the circus. This follows his prohibition of priests bicycling.

If Judge Goff does not go into the Cabinet, it will be his fault, and not the fault of President-elect McKinley.

Good morning. Have you read Thos. Slater's offer for men on page 3

Publishers' Column.

WALTHAM AND ELGIN WATCHES.

Some months ago, after supplying our readers several thousand good watches at wholesale prices, we discontinued the offer. For a few weeks we shall offer the following small list much below our former prices, owing to reduction of certain grades by the manufacturer. A couple will be recognized as standard watches of our former list. The others are good grades at reduced prices.

OFFER NO. 8.—BLADE SPECIAL.

Open Face or Hunting Case, Waltham or Elgin Works—Be Sure to Name Your Choice When You Order.

A $200 solid gold watch cannot be bought for $20, but the Weekly Blade offers a watch under the above number which has all the appearances and most of the good qualities of a $200 watch. Time and money have been spent in bringing this particular watch to perfection. The movement (or works) contains 15 jewels, compensation balance, safety pinion, patent regulator, and all improvements. The case is the thinnest filled watch case ever made. Remember, we mean that the watch when closed in the pocket is thin. The lids of the case are the usual thickness and form a perfect protection for the movement. The case is made of a plate of fine composition metal, over which two heavy sheets of 14k. gold are drawn, making a case that is for all purposes as good as gold, and warranted for 20 years. Every part which is subjected to constant wear, such as the ring, thumb piece, joint plugs, hinges, etc., is of solid gold. The works are especially recommended where the most accurate time is required. This is just the watch for doctors, lawyers, clergymen, county committeemen, and all others who wish a really first-class article. As a present it cannot be excelled. It is so thin and convenient in form that it will even make a good and satisfactory ladies' watch, and it is especially recommended to school teachers and other professional women on account of its accuracy, which is equalled by no watch made especially for ladies.

We will send this watch, open face or hunting case, as desired, by registered mail to any of our subscribers for $20.

No. 333.

No. 333 is one of the finest gentlemen's watches we have ever offered. The movements, either Waltham or Elgin, are full jeweled, and are guaranteed perfect timekeepers. The case is of the finest gold-filled, and guaranteed to wear the same as solid gold for 15 years. The price of this watch in open face is $13.50, and in hunting case, $16.50.

Lady's Watches, Waltham or Elgin, $20.00.

No. 15.—The works are manufactured at Waltham or Elgin. They are made of the finest materials, carefully selected. The jewels are all cut and polished in Europe, where secret processes are handed down from generation to generation. The dial is made of the finest porcelain, and the hands of blue tempered steel. The case is solid 14k. United States assay, handsomely engraved. This watch is a stem winder and setter and hunting case. We will send this watch, delivery guaranteed, for $20.

Lady's Watches, Waltham or Elgin, $15.00.

No. 16.—The works of No. 16 are the same as No. 15, but the case is gold filled, 14k., guaranteed to wear just like solid gold for 20 years. The joints, plugs and parts exposed to unusual wear are solid gold. It is hunting case, and is handsomely engraved. Sent by registered mail, delivery guaranteed, for $15.

Gentlemen's Watches.

No. 200.—Solid gold 40 dwt. hunting case with Elgin or Waltham works, 18 size, 14 karat, and guaranteed timekeeper, sent by registered mail to any part of the United States for $33.50.

No. 201.—Gold filled Elgin or Waltham watch, 18 size, open face case, guaranteed for 15 years. The movement or works contain seven jewels. This watch will be sent to any subscriber of The Blade in perfect order, delivery guaranteed, for $10.

Address all orders:

THE BLADE,
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FAMOUS BATTLE PICTURES.

These pictures are of a high grade, chromo colors, large size (22x28), reproduced from the original oil paintings with wonderful accuracy. We propose to give one picture free, postpaid by mail, to every person sending us $1 for the Weekly Blade one year. If your time expires soon, you can obtain a picture when you renew. If your time expires some time hence, and you want a picture now, send a dollar, and let us extend your time a year ahead from date of expiration. Or, get us a new subscriber and we will enter the new name for Blade one year, and send the picture to the remitter, if so directed. However, we are confident those who obtain one picture, will want several more, or perhaps all of them. You can obtain them one at a time by sending us new dollar subscribers. Try one of them when you renew.

NOTICE, however, that the above offer is only to those who send us $1 for subscription or renewal after this date.

Here is the list; make your selection from it:

Battle of Gettysburg, Pa.
Battle of Shiloh, Tenn.
Battle of Five Forks, Va.
Battle of Missionary Ridge, Tenn.
Battle of The Wilderness, Va.
Battle of Fort Donelson, Tenn.
Battle of Champion Hill, Miss.
Battle of Antietam, Md.
Battle of Atlanta, Ga.
Battle of Spottsylvania, Va.
Battle of Vicksburg, Miss.
Battle of Chattanooga, Tenn.
Battle of Cold Harbor, Va.
Battle of Resaca, Ga.
Battle of Lookout Mountain, Tenn
Battle of Olustee, Fla.
Battle of Fredericksburg, Va.
Battle of Bunker Hill.
Battle of Tippecanoe.
Battle between the Monitor and the Merrimac.
Battle of Pea Ridge, Ark.
Battle of Bull's Run, Va.
Battle of Chancellorsville, Va.
Battle of Big Horn (Custer's Last Charge).
Battle of Chickamauga, Ga.
Storming of Fort Wagner, S. C.
Capture of Fort Fisher, N. C.
Battle of New Orleans, La.
Battle of Cedar Creek, Va.
Capture and death of Sitting Bull.
Battle of Kenesaw Mountain, Ga.
Battle of Stone River, Tenn.
Assault on Fort Sanders, Tenn.
Battle of Franklin, Tenn.
Battle of Nashville, Tenn.
Battle of Corinth, Miss.
Perry's Victory on Lake Erie.
Fort Pillow Massacre, Tenn.
Battle of Wilson's Creek, Mo.
Battle of Williamsburg, Va.
Fall of Petersburg, Va.
Battle of Opequan or Winchester, Va.

We also add a half dozen celebrated foreign battle pictures:

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THE BLADE, Toledo, Ohio.

NICKEL SILVER TABLE WARE.

It is Better Than Plated Stuff and Saves Much Worry.

We are now enabled to offer to subscribers of The Blade (and to subscribers only, remember,) teaspoons, dessert spoons, tablespoons and forks, made of composition known as nickel silver, which so closely resembles solid silver that an expert might be deceived. It is indestructible, does not tarnish so easily as solid silver from exposure to the air, and it is finished in the same manner as the solid silver goods. The patterns are no thicker than solid silver.

Prices.

They are sent by registered mail, postpaid, at the following prices:

1 dozen teaspoons	$1.25
½ dozen teaspoons	.85
1 dozen tablespoons or forks	2.35
½ dozen tablespoons or forks	1.35
1 dozen dessert spoons or forks	2.00
½ dozen dessert spoons or forks	1.15
½ dozen table knives	2.25
1 dozen table knives	4.25

These are made in only the one pattern. They are sent by express. There can be no variation from these offers. Only subscribers to The Blade can buy at these prices, but they can buy as much as they like.

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And the Weekly Blade One Year for Three Dollars.

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OLD FAVORITES.

THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD.

The Church and the World walked far apart
  On the changing shore of Time;
The World was singing a giddy song,
  And the Church a hymn sublime.
"Come, give me your hand, said the merry
    World,
  "And walk with me this way;"
But the good Church hid her snowy hands
  And solemnly answered, "Nay,
I will not give you my hand at all,
  And I will not walk with you;
Your way is the way that leads to death;
  Your words are all untrue."

"Nay, walk with me but a little space,"
  Said the World with a kindly air;
"The road I walk is a pleasant road,
  And the sun shines always there;
Your path is thorny and rough and rude,
  But mine is broad and plain;
May way is paved with flowers and dews,
  And yours with tears and pain;
The sky to me is always blue,
  No want, no toil I know;
The sky above you is always dark,
  Your lot is a lot of woe;

* * * * *

There's room enough for you and me
  To travel side by side."

Half shyly the Church approached the World
  And gave him her hand of snow;
And the old World grasped it and walked
    along,
  Saying in accents low,
"Your dress is too simple to please my taste;
  I will give you pearls to wear,
Rich velvets and silks for your graceful form,
  And diamonds to deck your hair."

The Church looked down on the plain white
    robes,
  And then at the dazzling World,
And blushed as she saw his handsome lip
  With a smile contemptuous curled.
"I will change my dress for a costlier one,"
  Said the Church, with a smile of grace;
Then her pure, white garments drifted away,
  And the World gave, in their place,
Beautiful satins and shining silks,
  Roses and gems and costly pearls;
While over her forehead her bright hair fell,
  Crisped in a thousand curls.

"Your house is too plain," said the proud old
    World,
  "I'll build you one like mine;
"Carpets of Brussels and curtains of lace,
  And furniture ever so fine."
So he built her a costly and beautiful house;
  Most splendid it was to behold;
Her sons and her beautiful daughters dwelt
    there
  Gleaming in purple and gold;
Rich fairs and shows in the halls were held,
  And the World and his children were there;
Laughter and music and feasts were heard
  In the place that was meant for prayer.
There were cushioned pews for the rich and
    the gay,
  To sit in their pomp and pride;
But the poor, who were clad in shabby array,
  Sat meekly down outside.

"You give too much to the poor," said the
    World,
  Far more than you ought to do;
If they are in need of shelter and food,
  Why need it trouble you?
Go take your money and buy rich robes,
  Buy horses and carriages fine;
Buy pearls and jewels and dainty food;
  Buy the rarest and costliest wine.
My children they dote on all these things,
  And if you their love would win,
You must do as they do, and walk in the ways
  That they are walking in."

Then the Church held fast the strings of her
    purse,
  And modestly lowered her head,
And simpered, "Without doubt you are right,
    sir;
  Henceforth I will do as you've said."
So the poor were turned from her door in
    scorn,
  And she heard not the orphan's cry;
But she drew her beautiful robes aside,
  As the widows went weeping by.
Then the sons of the World and the sons of
    the Church
  Walked closely hand and heart.
And only the Master, who knoweth all,
  Could tell the two apart.

Then the Church sat down at her ease and
    said,
  "I am rich and my goods increase;
I have need of nothing, or aught to do,
  But to laugh and to dance and feast."
The sly World heard and he laughed in his
    sleeve,
  And mocking said, aside—
"The Church is fallen, the beautiful Church,
  And her shame is her boast and her pride."

The angel drew near to the mercy-seat
  And whispered in sighs her name,
Then the loud anthems of rapture were
    hushed
  And heads were covered with shame.
And a voice was heard at last by the Church,
  From Him who sat on the throne,
"I know thy works, and how thou hast said,
  'I am rich;' and hast not known
That thou art naked, poor and blind,
  And wretched before my face;
Therefore I from my presence cast thee out,
  And blot thy name from its place."

Sometimes He Does.

Job Lott—One never loses anything by keeping his engagements punctually.

Kirby Stone—My experience is he is apt to lose half an hour's time waiting for the other fellow.—Boston Traveler.

Mrs. Cleveland's New Ring.

The ladies of the cabinet have just presented Mrs. Cleveland with a turquoise ring, which she has sometime fancied. The souvenir is of dainty design and valued at $150.—New York Herald.

Getting In Fine Trim.

The Danbury, Conn., woman who has slept eleven days, says the Chicago Post, is probably a new woman training herself to be a policeman.

Fifty Years Ago.

Who could imagine that this should be
The place where, in eighteen ninety-three
That white world-wonder of arch and
  dome
Should shadow the nations, polychrome...
Here at the Fair was the prize conferred
On Ayer's Pills, by the world preferred.
Chicago-like, they a record show,
Since they started—50 years ago.

Ayer's Cathartic Pills

have, from the time of their preparation, been a continuous success with the public. And that means that Ayer's Pills accomplish what is promised for them; they cure where others fail. It was fitting, therefore, that the world-wide popularity of these pills should be recognized by the World's Fair medal of 1893—a fact which emphasizes the record:

50 Years of Cures.

THE OLD SQUIRE'S SCHEME.

Unfortunately, However, His Grand Coup On the Track Failed Utterly.

Old Squire Workem had been going about for several days buried in deep thought and having as little as possible to say says the Detroit Free Press. There had been no profit in the grains, fruits or stock that he had raised. He could get nothing out of those who owed him, for they had been squeezed dry. He had plenty, but it had always been the passion of his life to get more. Finally he sent for Link Perkins, a shiftless but shifty Yankee, to whom the squire never spoke.

"Link," began the squire, "do you read the papers?"

"Jis the sportin' news, mostly, sir."

"Precisely. Then you know what a coup is. You must have read how a few fellows down in Mexico cleaned up $250,000, and later how another gang found $25,000 at Chicago, all by working this coup business, understand."

"Yes, I heerd all about it. 'Twar slick business."

"Well, Link, knowing that you can keep your mouth shut, I suppose that you and I can work a coup. That brown filly of mine can outrun anything in this part of the state. They all know her, but I want you to disguise her in some way, take her down into Hackaway county as a new one and back her for all the money you can get against her. I'll furnish the money, but you must not be known in the matter. What do you think of it?"

"Thar's a fortune in it, squire. We kin break the Hackaway crowd and they'll never know how 'twar done."

The race came off and Link had a barrel of the squire's money on the filly that her owner would not have known. She would jump like a shot out of a gun, but, after a few jumps, bolted for home, took the fence like a hunted stag, left the rider in a tamarack swamp and reached the station in a broken-down condition.

Link never showed up, simply because he had worked the coup so as to provide liberally for his own future. All the squire did was to prepare a bill for the next legislature making it a penal offense to even attempt a coup on a race-track.

AS A SIMPLE YET EFFECTIVE REMEDY for Throat Affections, BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES stand first in public favor. They are absolutely unrivalled for the alleviation of all Throat Irritations caused by Cold or use of the voice.

WHAT ONE WOMAN THINKS.

The men will stand anything.

It's a woman's vocation to be married.

A woman is as good as a man any day.

Dearest friends make the best enemies.

Marriage is sometimes the grave of love.

It's a bad workman quarrels with his tools.

Sinners never hear any harm of themselves.

An old girl makes a young married woman.

There is something better than beauty, and that is charm.

There are not husbands enough to go around—statistics prove it.

A lie should be large and adaptable, and allow a margin for alteration.

There's no sight more deplorable than a man who can't employ himself.

All lovers' promises are, of course, entirely founded on the doctrine of probabilities.

A woman may just as well give up the game when once she can't make the other woman jealous.

IF YOU WANT A BIG GUN, JUST TAKE YOUR PICK.

DO YOU WANT A BIG GUN?

IF YOU DO, UNCLE SAM CAN FURNISH YOU ONE.

About Six Hundred Canon for Which the United States Government Has No Use.

Uncle Sam has invited the Soldiers' Monument associations, the Grand Army posts, and municipal corporations of the United States to have a gun with him.

Uncle Sam is moved to this liberality by the fact that he has on hand at the Brooklyn Navy Yard a large quantity of big and small guns and cannon balls for which the naval service has no use. Anybody who wants a gun must write to the secretary of the navy.

Most of the guns which Uncle Sam wants to unload are located at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, but there are a few in the navy yards at Boston and Portsmouth, N. H. It is ordinarily the custom of the government to sell all these things, but Congress took the matter in its own hands in this instance, and provided that these engines and munitions of war should be given away. Evidenly the government wants badly to get rid of them.

There are, all told, about six hundred guns, all of which have outlived their usefulness. They are all obsolete weapons, and have been condemned by the ordnance office. None of them are light weight, and the smallest of the old stagers weighs more than 6,000 pounds. Thirty years ago they were considered mighty fine weapons, and their yawning mouths seem capable of dealing enough death and destruction for half a dozen nations. Inventive progress, however, has left him far behind.

They were all of the type that were used during the civil war. They were cast for use during that conflict, and constitute the remnant of the surplus ordnance that the government found itself in possession of when hostilities ceased. From year to year various plans have been suggested to make use of them. They have grown old and rusty in idleness, and now, past all redemption, they can only frown as grim mementoes of the days when the nation was on a war footing.

Among this aggregation of old-time thunderers, there are 32 13-inch mortars, with 36 mounts. Each of the mortars weigh 17,300 pounds, and each mount weighs 4,000 pounds. The best use, it is considered, to which they can be put, is that of ornament at the base of a soldiers' monument or at the entrance to a park. In addition to the mortars there are 200 11-inch guns, of the old muzzle-loading variety, each of which weighs 15,800 pounds. There are, besides, more than 60,000 projectiles, old-time cannon balls.

MARINE MAIL SERVICE.

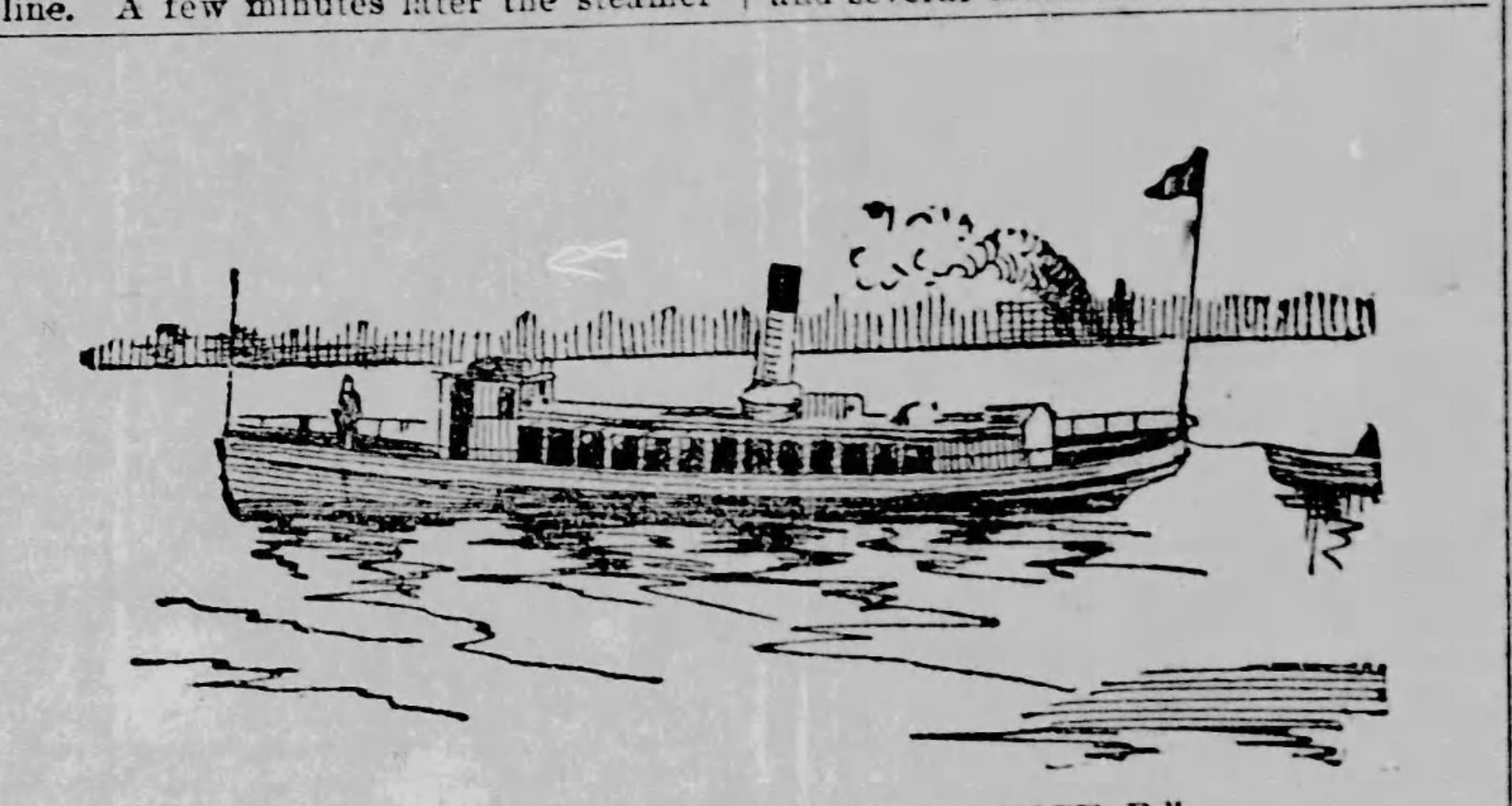
THE NEW SERVICE INAUGURATED OVER AT DETROIT.

Mail Delivered to and Taken From Every Vessel Passing Through the Detroit River.

On June 19, 1896, there was inaugurated in Detroit, Mich., the United States Marine Mail Service The only drawback to the complete success of the undertaking was the fact that passing vesselmen were ignorant of the new system. The scheme originated with Superintendent Charles Swan, of the Detroit post office, but it was several years before he could get the postoffice department at Washington to look with favor upon his plan, and it was not until the present postmaster, John J. Enright, of Detroit, was appointed that an actual test of the scheme was made.

It required several days to arrange for the trial. Appropriate boats for the service, as well as men adapted to the work, had to be secured. This latter trouble was found to be a hard one to overcome. Competent men did not care to give their service for the small compensation offered by the department. This difficulty was finally overcome by Mr. Enright and Mr. Swan increasing the compensation offered by the department out of their own pockets.

On June 19 the test was finally made, but the first vessel refused to take the line. A few minutes later the steamer Nimick was sighted coming up the river carrying a signal denoting that she would not stop.

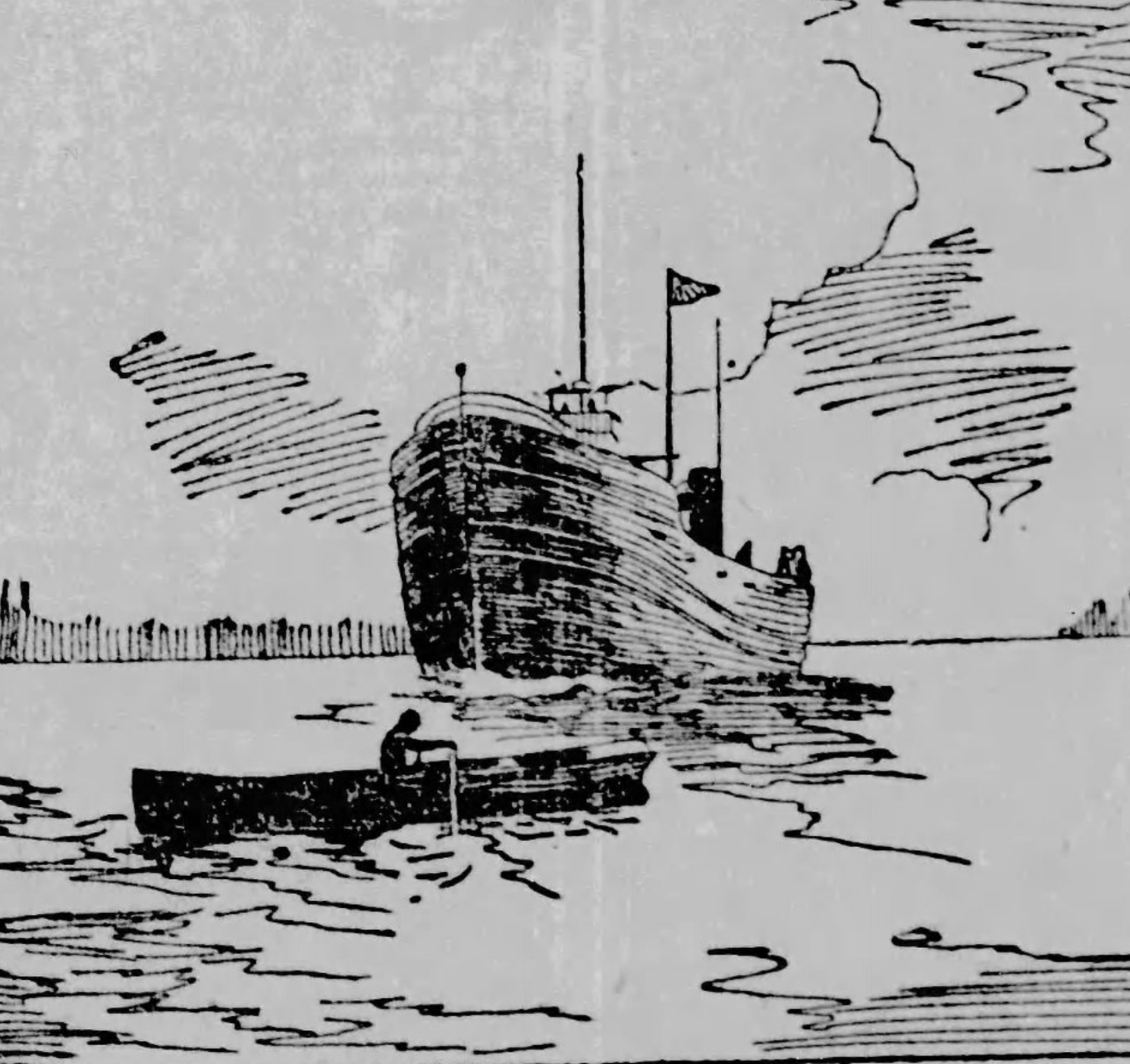


U. S. MARINE MAIL B OAT "FLORENCE B."

A small tug, the Florence B., towing a small yawl, in which was seated the carrier chosen to make the attempt, steamed towards the course of the oncoming vessel. When the Nimick came within two hundred feet of the tug the small boat was cast lose and the carrier rowed directly in front of the rapidly approaching steamer. Those on board did not understand what was being done, they not having heard of the intended trial. The whistles of the big steamer blew out threatening blasts, the seamen shouted their words of warning, and the pilot threw his wheel over as rapidly as possible in a vain effort to pass on one side of the little boat; but as fast as the steamer changed her course the carrier in the yawl rowed into it.

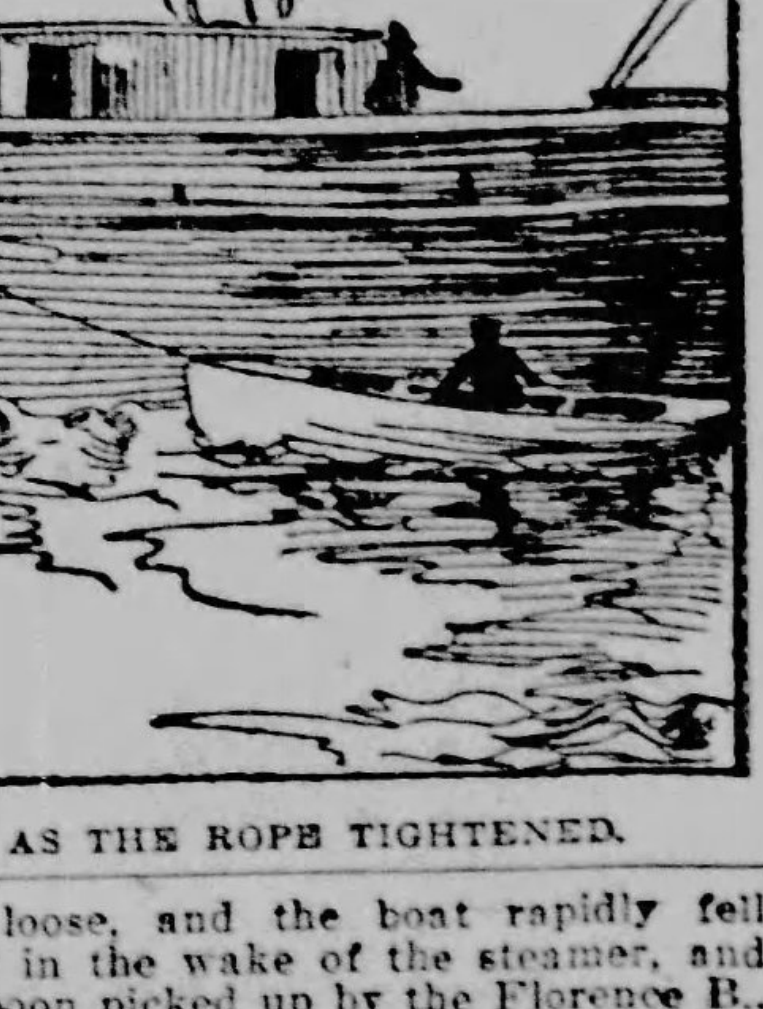
By this time the steamer had reached a point about ten feet away from the small boat. The carrier gripped his oars firmly, and as the rounded bow of the steamer seemed about to strike his boat, he gave the oars a quick turn and the yawl slid around the bow without even having touched the steamer.

When about the midship the carrier rose and threw a rope to some sailors who stood on deck ready to receive it. It was grasped firmly and the yawl rapidly passed to the rear of the steamer. As the rope tightened the bow of the small craft arose in the water, while the stern took in considerable sea. A small rope was thrown to the carrier, who fastened it to the bag of mail matter and gave orders for the seamen to haul away. In the meantime the business on hand had been made known to the captain of the steamer, and he did everything in his power to assist in the trial.



WAITING FOR THE NIMICK.

When the bag had been hauled aboard it was taken off and another bag, containing the mail for Detroit, fastened to the rope and thrown to the carrier. The line holding the yawl was cast loose, and the boat rapidly fell away in the wake of the steamer, and was soon picked up by the Florence B., which had remained at close quarters during the trial.



AS THE ROPE TIGHTENED.

While practically the original plans are being carried out, several minor changes have been made. For instance, it was intended to run a swift yacht alongside the ships, but it was learned that the suction would draw the vessels together with a bump that would be little short of a collision and would probably result in damage to both crafts. It was decided, therefore, to make use of the small row boat and to have the yacht in close attendance.

To an ordinary person there can be no conception of the work and dangers through which the men who handle the small boats have to pass in order to make the safe delivery of letters. Mariners who send or receive these letters are hardened to the dangers of the lakes, and they think little of the perilous feats of the hardy fellows who carry to them their mail.

While thinking of the business in hand and trying to avoid known dangers, the carriers are obliged to keep a constant watch for other crafts that might at any time run them down unawares. So far, however, no serious accident has befallen any of the carriers, but on several occasions accidents have been narrowly averted.

At night, out on the river in front of an approaching liner, nothing is to be seen but the triangle of red, green and white light. No hull is visible, and until the steamer gets close upon one no sound can be heard. Suddenly the ear detects a faint swishing in the distance as the oncoming bows cut through the water, then a huge black object that looks like a large building in a deserted street on a stormy night looms up on the water, approaching at an apparently frightful speed. The boat is really going no faster than she would in the day time, and the chances are that it is not so fast, but the darkness conceals her until close at hand. For a man who does not possess a cast-iron nerve the dragging through the water in the darkness possesses an absolute terror.

These marine postmen are hardy fellows, and are well used to their work, and in mild weather even enjoy the constant dangers that it involves.

The rule of the service is to catch every boat that goes through the river from midnight to midnight. Each day the weather bureau sends to the mail boat a package of circulars containing the forecast for the following twenty-four hours. One of these circulars is put on board every vessel that passes. In many cases they come in very handy, and several cases are known where they have been the means of avoiding disasters. In addition to this, the mail boat always flies a signal flag on the approach of a storm that may be seen for a mile up or down the river.

All mail matter addressed in care of the marine post office has to go through the main office at Detroit. It is sent immediately to the marine branch at the foot of Bates street.

There is no doubt that the marine postal service has come to stay. In spite of the opposition in some quarters at first, nothing but good words for it can be said now. When the system was first inaugurated the number of letters that passed through the office was less than one hundred a day. At present from 600 to 1,000 pieces of mail matter are exchanged between passing steamers and the marine post office, so that it is proposed to build new boats for the service for this season.—E. J. Peck in National Magazine.

LACK OF COURTESY.

Men Who Travel Are Not Accommodating to Women.

"I am sorry to have to say it," remarked a sleeping car conductor to a Washington Star reporter, "but somehow—and I have no explanation for it—men traveling are not as courteous and accommodating to lady travelers as they should be. The men who ask for all kinds of accommodations when they have their wives, sisters or female relatives traveling with them—and they never fail then to claim everything in sight—are in many cases the men who decline to give similar favors to other lady passengers. As a matter of fact the upper berths in a sleeping car are the best, the best ventilated, and I think experience has shown the safest in cases of wreck. Still, the demand is nearly always for the lower berths, because it is easier to get into them. This is particularly so with lady travelers. In my last half dozen trips from and back to this city I have had more than the usual percentage of lady passengers, and I have not succeeded in one case in getting any of the men travelers to surrender a lower berth for an upper berth. The men bein gmore experienced, secured the lower berths and refused to give them up."

A Difference in Meaning.

Lord Meadowbank, the second of the name, was the son of Lord Meadowbank, esteemed in his day as a wise judge. John Clerk, afterward Lord Eldon, was arguing before the son that the words "also" and "likewise," used in a conveyance, had different meanings "Surely, Mr. Clerk," said the judge, "you do not seriously argue that 'also' means anything different from likewise!" They mean precisely the same thing, and it matters not which of them is used." "Not at all, my lord," rejoined Clerk, "there is all the difference in the world between the two words. Let us take an instance: Your worthy father was Lord Meadowbank; your lordship is 'also' Lord Meadowbank; but you are not 'like wise' Lord Meadowbank!"

How It Ended.

Before he was wed
    He said
    He wanted a wife whose head
Contained the 'ologies
Taught in colleges,
    But he married his cook instead.
        —Philadelphia Call.

Hood's Pills

Are much in little; always ready, efficient; prevent a cold or fever, cure all liver ills, sick headache, jaundice, biliousness, constipation, etc. Price 25 cents. The only Pills to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

A SPLENDID COLLECTION OF CHOICE

Vegetable and Flower SEEDS

Absolutely Given Away To Our Subscribers.

MAY'S ROYAL PANSIES.

NORTHWEST PREMIER PEA.

By special arrangement with MESSRS. MAY & CO., ST. PAUL, MINN., we will send postpaid, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS of Vegetable and Flower Seeds to all who subscribe for the WEEKLY BLADE.

These collections are put up for the exclusive use of the WEEKLY BLADE. Many of the varieties offered are new and choice, being introduced for the first time this season, and retail at 10c, 15c, and 25c per packet. Others are standard varieties which have stood the test in all sections and proven thoroughly reliable. PLEASE READ OUR OFFERS CAREFULLY.

THE FOLLOWING COLLECTIONS SENT POSTPAID:

OFFER NO. 1.
The Farm Garden.

This collection includes the standard varieties of Vegetable Seeds which are adapted to all sections of the United States. To any one sending $1 for the Weekly Blade one year we will send this collection free, post paid. This package if bought at retail would cost $1.40.

BEAN, R. P. Golden Wax	$ .10
ONION, Globe Danvers	.05
PEA, N. W. Premier	.10
TOMATO, The Acme	.05
CABBAGE, Surehead	.05
CORN, Early Minnesota	.05
CARROT, Danvers	.05
RADISH, Rosy Queen	.10
CUCUMBER, Garden Gem	.15
LETTUCE, Early Simpson	.05
TURNIP, Purple Top	.05
SQUASH, Sibley	.05
WATERMELON, Ice King	.10
PUMPKIN, Connecticut	.05
PARSNIP, Hollow Crown	.05
RADISH, Long Scarlet	.05
RUTABAGA, Shamrock	.05
MUSK MELON, Minnesota Perfection	.10
PARSLEY, Plain	.05
BEET, Market Gardener	.10
Retail price	$1.40

Packet alone to subscribers, 55c, postpaid.

OFFER NO. 2.
Flower Garden.

To any one sending us $1.00 for a year's subscription to the Weekly Blade we will send, postpaid, the following charming collection of Flower Seeds. These are all free flowering annuals, and will produce a beautiful display of flowers during the summer months. Cultural directions on every packet. The regular retail price of this assortment is $1.30.

ASTERS, German Mixed	$ .10
PANSY, German Show	.10
NASTURTIUM, Tall Mixed	.05
POPPIES, Paeonia Mixed	.10
GAILLARDIA, Mixed	.05
GODETIAS, Giant Mixed	.10
MIGNONETTE, Sweet	.05
PETUNIA, Imperial Mixed	.10
ZINNIAS, Giant Mixed	.10
SWEET PEA, California Mixed	.10
FOUR O'CLOCKS	.05
PINKS, Double China	.05
MORNING GLORIES	.05
WILD FLOWER GARDEN, a collection of different varieties	.15
PANSY, Swanley Blue	.15
Retail price	$1.30

Packet alone to subscribers, 50c, postpaid.

OFFER NO. 3.
Our Novelty Package.

To any one sending $1.00 for a year's subscription to the Weekly Blade we will send, postpaid, this collection free. In this assortment will be found many rare varieties of Vegetable and Flower Seeds of late introduction, some of which retail at 10c, 15c, and 25c per packet. These late introductions are vast improvements over the common sorts, and consequently more valuable. Retail price of this collection is $2.25.

PEAS, May's Sunol	$ .10
BEET, Cheltenham, Favorite	.10
CUCUMBER, Early Prize	.10
CABBAGE, Surprise	.15
ONION, Red Wonder	.15
MUSK MELON, Pickaniny	.15
CORN, Early Windsor	.10
RADISH, Queen of Market	.10
TOMATO, Shenandoah	.15
PANSY, Star Mixed	.25
SWEET PEAS, Gold Mixed	.10
PINK, Royal Banner	.15
GIANT SWEET WILLIAM	.10
VERBENA, Mammoth Mixed	.15
NASTURTIUM, Imp. Mixed	.10
PETUNIA, Rose Queen	.10
PANSY, Harlequin	.20
Retail price	$2.25

Packet alone to subscribers, 65c, postpaid.

OFFER NO. 4.
Our Early Kitchen Garden.

This package includes the earliest Vegetables of the different classes, and is a splendid collection for a private garden. To any one sending $1.00 for the Weekly Blade one year, we will send this collection, postpaid. The regular retail price of this assortment is $1.05.

CABBAGE, Early Summer	$ .03
BEET, Early Blood	.03
PEAS, N. W. Premier	.10
LETTUCE, Early Challenge	.15
CUCUMBER, Early Frame	.05
TOMATO, First of All	.10
RADISH, Early White Turnip	.05
ONION, Early Bafletta	.05
CORN, Shaker's Early	.05
CARROT, Early Horn	.05
MUSK MELON, Hackensack	.05
WATER MELON, Safeguard	.15
BEAN, Early Refugee	.05
TURNIP, Early Snowball	.05
SPINACH, Long Standing	.05
Retail price	$1.05

Packet alone to subscribers, 45c, postpaid.

OFFER NO. 5.
Our Combination Package.

This package, as will be noticed, includes a grand assortment of both Flower and Vegetable Seeds. In some of the packets are several different varieties of the same classes, so that in most instances the seeds will produce either a varied assortment of Flowers or some choice vegetables for early, medium and late use. This collection will be sent, postpaid, to any one sending $1.00 for one year's subscription to the Weekly Blade.

21 Varieties of Vegetable Seeds.
18 Kinds of Flower Seeds.

1 PKT. MIXED TOMATOES—In this packet are the following three splendid tomatoes: Early Ruby, The Acme, Shenandoah	$ .15
1 PKT. STAR MIXED WATERMELONS—This packet contains seeds of the Ice King, Giant Southern, Florida Favorite	.15
1 PKT. PUMPKINS, MIXED—Seed of four good varieties	.10
1 PKT. RADISHES, MIXED—This mixture is made up of four splendid varieties	.10
1 PKT. LETTUCE, MIXED—A mixture of five curled and head varieties, early and late	.10
1 PKT. CUCUMBER, Garden Gem, the best for slicing	.15
1 PKT. BEET, Lightning, early turnip shaped variety	.10
1 PKT. PEAS, May's Midsummer, valuable for private use	.15
1 PKT. PANSIES, Prized Mixed, a celebrated collection made up from the following four varieties: Snow Queen, German Show, King of Yellows, Blue Prince	.20
1 PKT. ASTERS, Gem Mixed—This includes Snow White and Blue Danube	.15
1 PKT. SWEET PEAS, English Mixed, an assortment of 10 kinds	.10
1 PKT. PETUNIAS, Imperial Mixed—In this packet are the two famous varieties, Moonlight and Countess of Ellesmere	.10
Retail price	$1.85

Packet alone to subscribers, 50c, postpaid.

OFFER NO. 6—FLORAL FAVORITES: Pansies, Poppies and Sweet Peas.

The following collection we have made up of the popular floral favorites of the past few years. No one who loves flowers should fail to have a bed of Pansies, Poppies and Sweet Peas. We will mail the entire collection, postpaid, to any person sending us $1.00 for one year's subscription to the Weekly Blade.

1 OZ. SWEET PEA, Grace May, pure white, very fine	$ .20
1 OZ. SWEET PEA, Minnie Keepers, delicate heliotrope and lavender	.10
1 OZ. SWEET PEAS, Firefly, bright scarlet, showy	.10
1 OZ. SWEET PEAS, Captain of the Blues, rich blue	.10
1 OZ. SWEET PEAS, California Giant Mixed, an assortment of colors	.20
1 PKT. PANSY, Swanley Blue, very light blue	.15
1 PKT. PANSY, Faust, black	.10
1 PKT. PANSY, Improved Snow Queen, pure white	.10
1 PKT. PANSY, Ocean Spray, blue, edged white	.20
1 PKT. PANSY, Royal Mixed, large flowers of all colrs	.25
1 PKT. POPPY, Danebrog, scarlet with white spots	.05
1 PKT. POPPY, Shirley, a beautiful strain of light colors	.10
1 PKT. POPPY, Paeonia Flowered, mammoth blossoms	.10
1 PKT. POPPY, Snowdrift, large double white flowers	.10
Retail price	$1.85

Packet alone to subscribers, 60c, postpaid.

FULL CULTURAL DIRECTIONS ON EVERY PACKET OF SEED.

ADDRESS ALL LETTERS TO

The Weekly Blade,
Toledo, Ohio.

Be sure to mention number of our offer.

REVOLUTIONARY WIDOWS.

Seven of Them Still On the Government Pension Rolls.

It is 115 years since the American Revolution was brought to a close, and yet there are still on the pension rolls seven widows of revolutionary soldiers.

The eldest is living at Los Angeles, Cal. She is Mrs. Lovey Aldrich, now in the 98th year of her age. Her husband was Private Caleb Aldrich, who was born in the year 1763, and served as a soldier boy in the New England campaigns of the war.

Mrs. Nancy Jones, of Jonesborough, Tenn., whose husband was Darling Jones, a private in one of the North Carolina regiments, is the youngest of the Revolutionary widows, being now about 83 years of age.

The other five are Nancy Cloud, who is now living at Chum, Va., and is the widow of Sergt. William Cloud, of Capt. Christian's Virginia line; Esther S. Damon, of Plymouth Union, Vt., whose husband was Private Noah Damon, of Massachusetts; Mary Snead, living at Parksley, Va., widow of Private Bowdoin Snead; Nancy A. Weatherman, who lives at Elk Mills, Tenn., and whose first husband was Robert Glasscock, a fifer in one of the Virginia regiments, and Rebecca Mayo, living at Newbern, Va., widow of Stephen Mayo, a soldier from Virginia.

The explanation of these surviving pensioners is readily understood. The wife was young and the husband old when the marriage ceremony was celebrated. Apply the experience of the Revolutionary widows to those of the last war and in 1980 there will still be several hundred widows of soldiers of the war of the rebellion on the pension roll.

If Gen. Russell A. Alger, says the Chicago Dispatch, should write his memoirs, they would chronicle more narrow cabinet escapes than any other publication in existence.

Men! Do not despair. Read Thos. Slater's offer on page 8.

WHEN THE SNOW COMES DOWN.

Dreaming in the shadows,
  Beside the smouldering fire;
And spirits and things earthly
  Grow gradually nigher.
And thought will somehow, somehow,
  Go outward from the town,
To where the dead are sleeping—
  When the snow comes down.

How fare out in God's acre
  The dead wrapped in their shrouds—
The babes and parents sleeping,
  Forgotten by the crowds!
The flying flakes are roses
  That brighten the tomb's frown—
White roses God is scatt'ring—
  When the snow comes down.
    —Will T. Hale, in Nashville American.

BIG SUN SPOT.

Some of the Facts Connected With These Phenomena.

Professor Brooks' observations of an enormous sun spot, made at Geneva, N. Y., a few days ago, were readily confirmed at the Naval Observatory at Washington, even with a piece of smoked glass. While the phenomena of sun spots, their nature and periodicity, is very much a matter of speculation even with the most eminent astronomers, yet the conclusion of Wilson and Herschel that the spots are depressions in the sun's surface is undoubted.

The first printed account of solar spots was given by Fabritius in 1611, and Galileo in the same year. They were closely studied by the Jesuit Scheiner, who supposed them to be small planets projected against the solar disk. Professor Newcomb says: "Sun spots are really depressions in the photosphere, as was first pointed out by Andrew Wilson, of Glasgow." From caerful observations, covering a period of many years, the periodicity of sun spots is evident, but the cause of this periodicity is yet unknown; in fact, all astronomical effort has heretofore been baffled to give any satisfactory explanation of that feature of the phenomena. Every eleven years there is a minimum number of spots, and about five years after each minimum there is a maximum.

The connection of solar spots with magnetic phenomena on the earth's surface, such as variations of temperature, rainfall, and other meteorological phenomena, is not a settled question with astronomers. Professor Newcomb says: "Since, however, the periodic variations of spots correspond to the magnetic variation, as exhibited in Schwab's results, it appears that there may be some connection of an unknown nature between the sun and the earth, at least. But at present we can only state our limited knowledge and wait for further information."

Attempts have been made to correlate large sun spots or groups of the same on the sun's surface, and the display and violence of magnetic storms and auroras, have never been successful. Yet, as they frequently occur at the same time, there seems to be some unmistakable, though unexplained connection between thm.

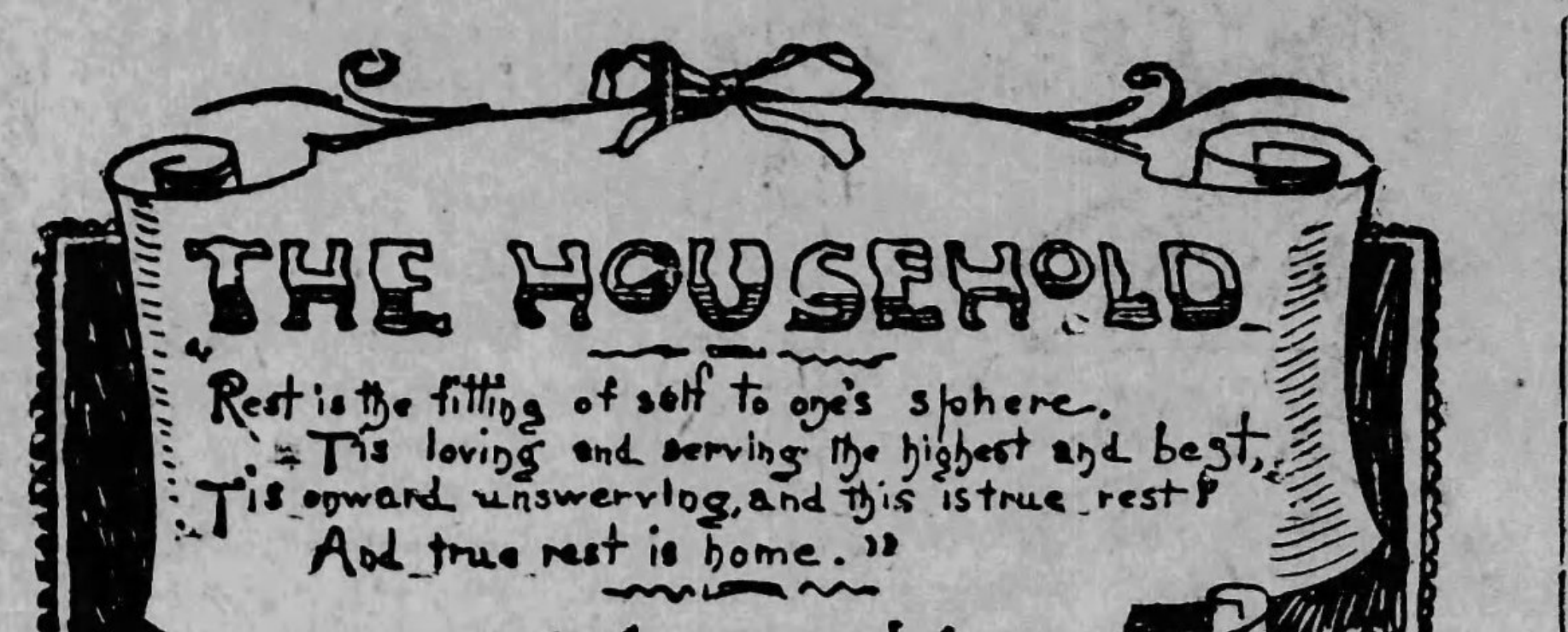
WANTED—Agents; terms liberal. Address Indian Medicine Co., Grand Rapids, Mich.

LADIES A friend in need is a friend indeed. If you want a regulator that never fails, address The Women's Medical Home, Buffalo, N. Y.

IF YOU HAVE AN IDEA
PATENT IT.
Write for free book on Patent, with Price offer and list of inventions wanted, to ASSOCIATION AMERICAN INVENTORS, Philadelphia, Pa.

It is my theory that half the happiness of married life comes of husbands and wives being constantly together—all in all to each other.—Good Housekeeping.

Do not fail to read Thos. Slater's offer on page 8 for men.


THE HOUSEHOLD
"Rest is the fitting of self to one's sphere.
'Tis loving and serving the highest and best,
'Tis onward unswerving, and this is true rest
And true rest is home."
Miss Emily S Bouton
Editor.

A SONG OF REST.

O weary hands! that all the day
 Were set to labor hard and long,
Now softly fall the shadows gray,
 The bells are rung for even song.
An hour ago the golden sun
 Sank slowly down into the west.
Poor, weary hands, your toil is done;
 'Tis time for rest! 'tis time for rest!

O weary feet! that many a mile
 Have trudged along a stony way,
At last ye reach the trysting stile;
 No longer fear to go astray.
The gentle bending, rustling trees
 Rock the young birds within the nest,
And softly sings the quiet breeze:
 "'Tis time for rest! 'tis time for rest!"

O weary eyes! from which the tears
 Fell many a time like thunder rain—
O weary heart! that through the years
 Beat with such bitter, restless pain,
To-night forget the stormy strife,
 And know what heaven shall send is best;
Lay down the tangled web of life;
 'Tis time for rest! 'tis time for rest!
—Florence Tyler.

THE COMMONPLACE.

MOST LIVES, WE THINK, ANSWER THIS DESCRIPTION.

Is It True That They Are Really So, and What Do We Mean by the Expression?

"A commonplace life," we say, and we sigh,
 But why should we sigh as we say?
The commonplace sun in the commonplace sky
 Makes up the commonplace day.
The moon and the stars are commonplace things,
And the flower that blooms and the bird that sings,
But dark were the world and sad our lot
If the flowers should fail and the sun shine not—
And God, who studies each separate soul,
Out of commonplace lives makes his beautiful whole.
—Susan Coolidge.

Very few, indeed, are the lives which in the ordinary acceptation, and to the outside world are not commonplace. Very few compared to the great whole are they who are not compelled to work and to struggle in order to hold themselves upon the level occupied by their fellows, relieving the work and the struggle by as much enjoyment as can be gotten out of the passing panorama of the days. Each one of us looks on at the rest wondering, for the most part, how the apparent monotony of their lives can be endured—a monotony varied only by small troubles and trifling disappointments. "Commonplace" we are apt to say, when the current seems only slightly rippled from day to day, and there comes a sense of pity for all who seem thus condemned to pass their lives so far removed from what the world calls happiness.

What do we mean by commonplace? Much depends upon the signification given to the word. There are those, and I imagine the great majority are included, who would call the life that Thoreau led in his cabin by the lake, with the whispering leaves and the singing birds, with the myriad voices of the insect-world uniting in a revealing of Nature's secrets to the ear that was attuned to listen, outside of the gay rush and revel of the world, apart from ambitious rivalry with his fellow-men, living from day to day in the simplest manner, I believe, to most of people this would be an exceedingly commonplace and uninteresting mode of existence. And yet to Thoreau it was the life of all others that brought to him happiness. It lifted him into an atmosphere of peace and of satisfied longings for a knowledge that was beyond count valuable.

I saw the other day a woman clad, I might say, in homespun, so strong, so homely, and yet so serviceable were her garments. She worked hard every day for the support of her family, and yet she found time to attend to the wants of those who were poorer than herself. Even then, at the time I speak of, she was hastening on an errand of mercy, her face shining in its eagerness to help others. To the outward eye of most persons hers was a most commonplace life, without beauty, without glory, without riches as the world counts these things, and yet it was one which brought to her a joy beyond measure, amid the homeliness of her surroundings.

The term commonplace is, you see, relative. It is well to pause and think of its real meaning. In the words of the poet:

The moon and the stars are commonplace things,
And the flower that blooms and the bird that sings,
But dark were the world and sad our lot
If the flowers should fail, and the sun shine not—

If they should cease to carry out life's purpose then it would mean much of beauty, much of pleasure, much of enjoyment taken out of the life of humanity.

We are too apt to reckon as "commonplace" the every-day doing of duty; to count as something wholly desirable, something to be ardently sought for, what are imagined to be the uncommon enjoyments that come from so-called success in life. In reality, devotion to duty, no matter how prosaic that duty may be, is the harmonizing of the being with Nature. It is the moving of the real Self towards the eternal, than which there can be nothing greater, nothing more important.

We long for variety. We long for something to break the monotony of the days. It comes, and then, perhaps, we regret the old things, the "commonplace" which we despised. The trouble is we do not look beneath the surface. We do not see that what we long to change is what we need to teach us patience, self-control, and to give us strength.

In reality there is no such thing as a commonplace life, unless it be that one wholly given up to selfish seeking, unthinking and uncaring for the glorious possibilities that lie within the grasp of every human being, to be reached by devotion to duty, and by a loving sacrifice of self for the good of others. The latter can never, in the great whole, be counted as "commonplace;" the former may be.

Settling in our minds the conviction that we are not getting our just deserts; that we deserve something which is far better than what falls to our every day lot, and we are sure to neglect the homely duties which lie close at hand. There is always one thing to be remembered: "The statue is not carved, the pastoral work successfully administered, the novel created, the poem sung, without a very fair proportion of drudgery somewhere." It is this "drudgery" which will bring the final high accomplishment which we are apt to term "commonplace."

There is one truth that we should impress upon our minds—that we find everywhere just what we are looking for, and just what we have the capacity to receive. To Thoreau the woods, the flowers, the rocks, all spoke in a different language from what would be uttered to one who has no love for Nature, no desire to penertate into her secret thought. The blue sky is simply the "commonplace" sky to one, while another gazes into its depths and dreams dreams of the starry worlds which may not be counted. The flower tells a varying story to the artist, the poet, the man of science, and to the one who ranks them among the common things of life.

There are those who have the inward, spiritual vision to whom nothing that is, is commonplace. Everything is invested with a meaning that carries it into an atmosphere of interest, if not of beauty. And it is this "vision" that we should strive for, that we should endeavor with all our might to gain. It betokens the larger mind, the capacity to see and understand, and hence to work more rapidly and surely towards a solution of the problems of life. This spiritual vision which it is not impossible for the business man to possess, no matter how far the rush and turmoil that ever surrounds him may seem to remove it away, which may belong to all men and to all women alike, is simply the product of an unselfish life, that finds no duty commonplace, no matter how homely is its outward aspect. And this, I think, is the thought which the poet meant to convey.

EMILY S. BOUTON.

OUR COZY CORNER.

THE COLD WEATHER MAKES IT PLEASANTER THAN EVER.

Keep Up Good Courage by Talking Matters Over With Love and Sympathy for All.

The conversation in the Cozy Corner seemed to have taken a practical turn this morning, and every one was talking of the useful, instead of the ornamental side of house and home keeping.

Mrs. E. J. Arnett, of South Dakota, brought her work with her and told us that though she really did not need a new "comfort," she thought she would make one so as to use up a lot of woolen scraps that were lying around the house, harboring moths and cluttering up her closets. With the small pieces she was making some log cabin squares. In the center of each of these blocks she put an inch and a half square of bright red flannel which gave them all a bright look. She calculated to have three stripes of these, and three of plain goods in her "comfort." The plain stripes were pieced out of an old dress skirt, and when the comfort is finished and tied with some bright yarn it will be very pretty indeed, and she will have a consciousness of three things, viz.: That she has one more cover for her already well supplied beds; that she has used these pieces of cloth to the best advantage when otherwise they would be wasted and that when house-cleaning time comes she has not these to look over and take care of. When Mrs. Arnett was ready to go home she gave those present an invitation to come and help her "tie" what she is going to call her Cozy Corner comforter.

Mrs. E. L. D., a young woman who is still wearing her wedding outfit, came in with a very sorrowful face and called attention to a spot of something, she could not tell what it was—that appeared on the back of her sealskin jacket. She had worn it to a church sociable the night before, and had placed it with the other wraps and when she put it on to come to the Cozy Corner she discovered that in some way it had become soiled, and, as she feared, spoiled entirely. But Mrs. Annie L. B., who comes from a state where the women are equal to any emergency, told her that if she would heat some common wheat flour so as to make it perfectly dry, then apply to the fur with a woolen cloth, rubbing gently against the nap, and then with it, and after letting it lie for two or three hours brush with a velvet brush, or flannel, till the flour is all removed, she would find that the soiled place was as good as new.

Hardwood sawdust, if very, very fine is better even than flour, but whatever is used, must be warm when applied. If the fur is matted in places use more of the cleaner.

She also told us that long-haired furs could be cleaned with warm bran, rubbed thickly into the fur and allowed to lie for an hour or two, then removed with a brush and a very coarse comb, while for mink fur corn meal used in the same way is very effective.

Miss Adams said that she had just completed a house-jacket, that was a thing of beauty and cost her just $1.30. She was, of course, invited to explain. Said she: "I was invited to spend a week with some friends in another city, and naturally wanted to look as well as possible. I had a dress for a traveling and street suit, and my one good dress, a new black silk, but I needed something to wear in the house and I could not buy anything. So I hunted through the scrap-bags and this was what I evolved.

"From an old-fashioned, gored, black alpaca dress skirt that was too narrow to use for a dress now, I pieced out a jacket. The back was shaped like an old-fashioned basque, the fronts hung straight down from the neck and the sleeves—well, I could only make them reach from wrist to elbow, and I assure you it took a great deal of contriving and piecing to do this much. I found some cashmere with large boquets of flowers in colors, scattered over a black ground and from this I made puffs for the upper part of my sleeves. Now, if you will promise never to tell a soul about it, I will explain about the cashmere. It was originally a table-cover—think of it! Being a present from a dear friend I prized it very highly, and in order to preserve it I folded it carefully away and when I looked at it—lo! the industrious moth had found it. So I ripped it up, removed the yellow silk lining, washed and pressed the outside and found enough that was good to make my sleeve puffs, and it was fortunate for me that small puffs obtain now.

"With all of this contriving it still remained a stubborn fact that the fronts of this wonderful garment refused to meet by nearly four inches. If I had had a pretty vest, I suppose I could have worn it even then but I had none, so I pieced out lining and covered the piecing with some of the yellow silk that lined the table-cover. I made a collar and cuffs of the same and bought four yards of black lace at 25 cents a yard to lay over the yellow silk and two yards of yellow ribbon at 15 cents for bows for the front, and then I had my house-jacket at a cost of $1.30, and a great deal of planning, piecing and contriving, for as I used old linings entirely there was absolutely no outlay except for ribbon and lace, and I assure you the effect of this evolution from the scrap-bag is very fine and when I wore it, with my sister's second best, black silk skirt which she loaned to me for the occasion, I looked, and felt, as if really money was not of so much value as genius."

We all listened attentively to Miss Adams and I am very certain that there was not a woman present who did not, in her mind, go over the possibilities of her resources in this line, and in the conversation that followed many valuable hints on dress and household economies were exchanged.

Just as the meeting was ready to adjourn, Aunt Mollie, a new friend from Kansas, wished to tell the "determined" sister that if "she lived in Kansas, the law would not allow her property to be taken from her, even though we do have a Populist governor. The 'lords' of this state now allow us to vote a little, and we hope that after a while, they will give us larger privileges."

A "would-be-student" writes that she has recently joined a Browning Club, and that she finds it entirely beyond her understanding; she finds it all utter nonsense and concludes her letter by asking if Browning ever wrote anything that a woman of average intellect could find any sense in, and if, in the editor's opinion, it would be worth her while to continue a member of the club.

Possibly if she is not too easily discouraged, she may come in time, to see the beauties of Browning's poems. One must needs study and be truly in sympathy with him, before she can appreciate a man who said of himself: "I never designedly tried to puzzle people as some of my critics have supposed. On the other hand, I never pretended to offer such literature as would be a substitute for a cigar, or a game of dominos, for an idle man."

If your club has a thorough Browning scholar for its leader, you will, without doubt, take a different view of the subject after awhile. In answer to your first question, it seems as if any woman, even though she did not possess the average intellect, could understand and appreciate this practical extract from his poems:

A poor man saved by thee, shall make thee rich,
A sick man helped by thee, shall make thee strong.
Thou shalt thyself be served, by every lease
Of service thou has rendered.

Jennie H., asks how study classes can be made interesting to young people. Her experience is that they speedily change into a social meeting for the young people, with very little, if any, study. Will not some of the members of The Blade Household readers give Jennie the benefit of their experience, or some suggestions?

Clara, can clean the nickle trimmings on her stove by rubbing first with Sapolio and then with silver polish.

School Girl:—Bermuda is not a North American Island, even though your teacher called it so. It is an oceanic not a continental island. Neither is it proper to call a native of China a Mongolian, nor a Chinaman. Call him a Chinese and you will give him the correct title. In answer to your third question—"Is it correct to speak of school or college as an institute"—I think not. I prefer the word institution, in that connection. For instance, it is considered correct to say the Smithsonian Institution, not the Smithsonian Institute. But a summer school that was intended for teaching some particular branches, and for a limited time, would be called an "institute."

Reader, can obtain Miss Bouton's new book, Life's Gateways, with photograph of the author, by sending to 2139 Glenwood avenue, Toledo, O. This arrangement has been made to accomodate such as would prefer to send to the author, rather than to the publishers.

THE COOK'S DEPARTMENT.

The Ballade of Light Housekeeping.

'Tis a subtly sweet, suggestive phrase,
 But the simple soul who is lured thereby
Will find a sorrow for many days.
 In secret oft will he moan and sigh,
 And vote the thing a tremendous lie:
For it means, this phrase that sounds so fair,
A world of trouble and toil and care,
 And a wild distracting wish to go
Away from it soon and anywhere:
 I speak of the things whereof I know.

It means all little transparent ways
 To hide away from the common eye
The fact that your bread and butter stays
 In your desk; that you bake and boil and fry
 In a single dish; it means to try
To hang your garments, the best you wear,
In a folding bed, that last despair
 Of honest souls; and, bitterest blow,
It means a kitcheny-parlor air:
 I speak of the things whereof I know.

It means to shrink 'neath the stern amaze
 Of the lordly butcher's and banker's eye,
Apologizing in meek dispraise
 For your modest wants; to rave or sigh
 Over the pangs of the boughten pie.
'Tis to pray a strong heaven-reaching prayer
For the meal a man pronounces "square,"
 And to be once more in life below
Free from the peace-destroying snare:
 I speak of the things whereof I know.
—Carlotta Perry.

Possibly the above "expose" of light housekeeping may be the result of a "sound and disappointed experience," but the cook thinks that as a general thing this poor apology for house keeping is not very satisfactory. We read very smooth and well sounding articles in magazines about how bright women kept house and entertained company, in one room, and the company had not even a suspicion of what she was about when she vanished for a few moments, between the "dainty screen," until they were summoned to leave the "parlor corner" of the room to partake of a tempting dinner of fish, flesh and fowl which she had prepared on a "tiny oil stove." We read of such things, I say, but do we ever fully believe them?

Sometimes it may be, that we cannot understand why certain things are as they are, until we can have some homely every day illustration, then it is very clear to us. For instance: Why should potatoes be placed in boiling water instead of cold water when we cook them? The January number of Good Housekeeping explains it thus: "Take two cups into each of which has been placed a teaspoonful of ordinary starch. Pour over one, a quarter of a cupful of boiling water and over the other the same quantity of cold water, and see the result. The one over which the boiling water was poured stays in shape, a compact mass; while the one with the cold water dissolves into a soft paste. The potato is composed largely of starch and from this trial everyone may draw their own conclusions—that if you want a wet, soggy potato you can let it lie and soak in cold water till it boils, but if you wish it to be dry and mealy you will put it into boiling water."

That is very simple, isn't it, and we all wonder why we never thought of it.

To use cold, mashed potatoes left from dinner, and yet not have the inevitable potato cake, why not try?

Potato Puff.

To every pint of cold, mashed potato, which has been properly seasoned use 1 egg beaten separately and a little warm milk, sufficient to mix. Stir in the yolks then the whites of the eggs, turn into a buttered tin and bake in a quick oven till browned, and puffed. Serve at once.

BLADE FANCY WORK CLUB

Receives More Instruction From Marie In the Art of Wood Carving.

Two of the Charter Members paid the club a call this morning—Mrs. Nettie Wreath and "Rosetta."

Two new members were cordially welcomed; being introduced as Modern Priscilla and K. E. W.

According to previous announcement, Marie told us some more ways of utilizing wood-carving for purposes of home adornments, the first article described being a

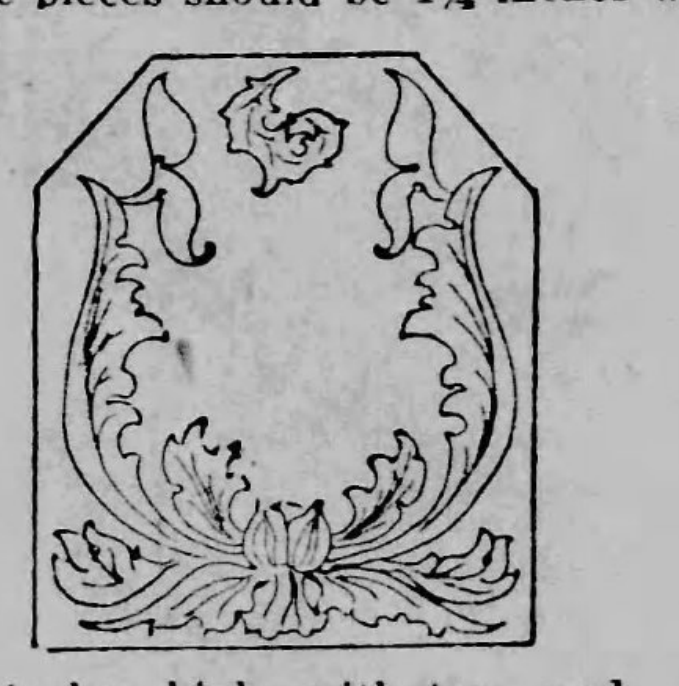
Book Rack.

She said: "There are many useful and inexpensive articles that come within the possibilities of amateur wood-carving; one of these is a book rack, of the kind that holds half a dozen volumes, and stands on the library table.

The bottom should be 5½ inches wide and may vary in length from 10 to 20 inches, with the edges neatly beveled by the carpenter.

The two end pieces are all that need carving, the pattern being either flowers or any conventional design.

These pieces should be 4¼ inches wide, and 5 inches high, with top and side edges beveled to correspond with bottom board.



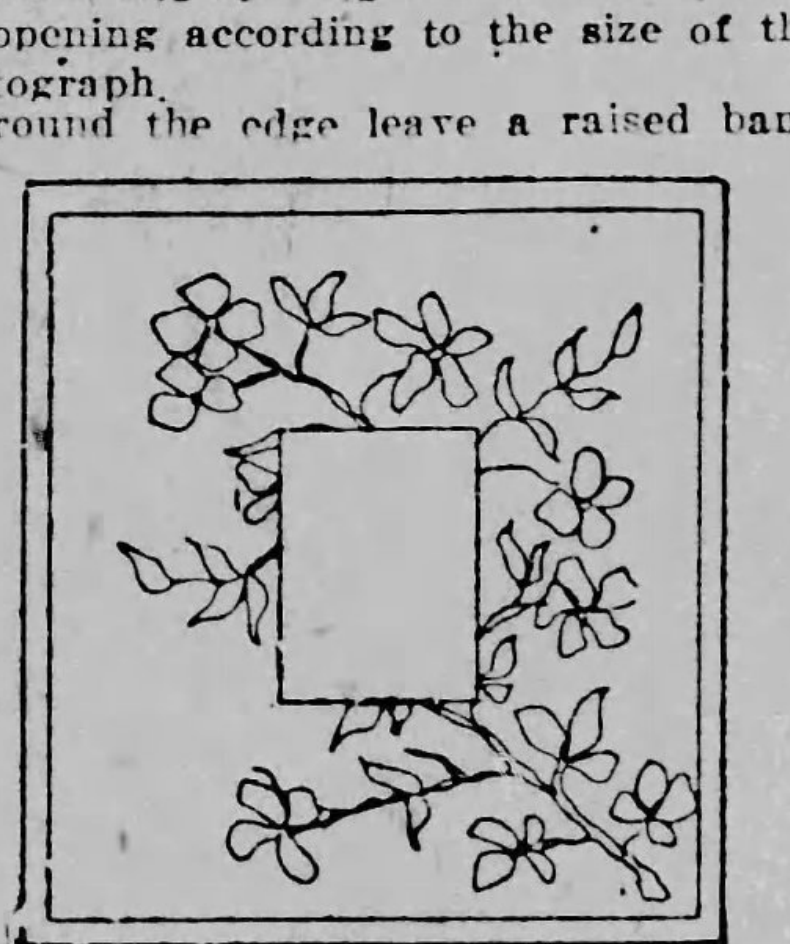
The corners may be cut off in the illustration, or the piece rounded at the top.

These pieces are placed at the ends and on top of the bottom board to which they are attached by small brass hinges, screwed on the inner side.

Cabinet Frame.

This is 9½ by 11½ inches in size, with an opening according to the size of the photograph.

Around the edge leave a raised band ⅜ of an inch, and cut a spray of dogwood about ⅛ of an inch in relief.



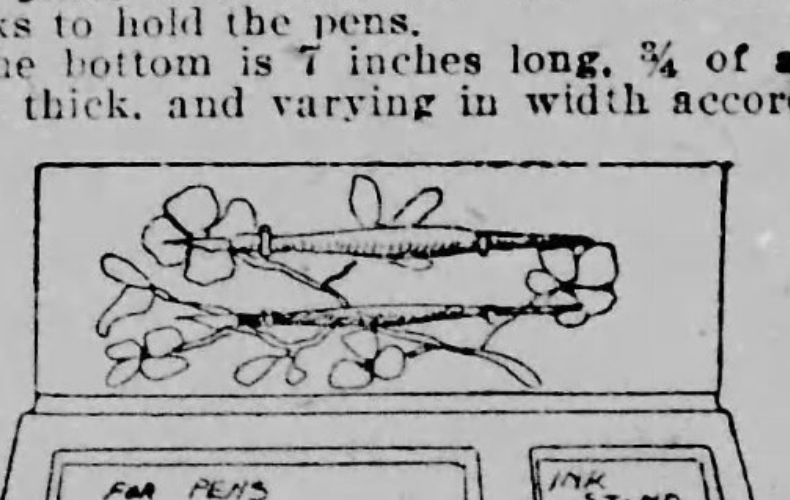
Cut away at the back to let in the glass and picture. A standard may be attached at the back if desired.

Pen and Ink Tray.

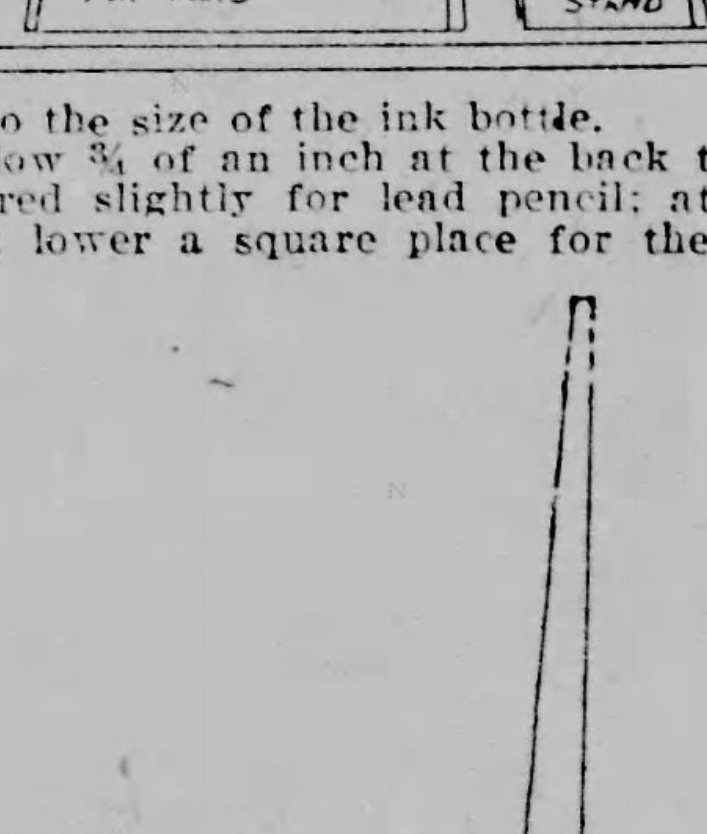
This is made of two pieces screwed together. The back is 7 inches long, 4½ inches high, and ½ of an inch thick at the top.

Carve this with any desired pattern, and place in it four or six keyboard hooks to hold the pens.

The bottom is 7 inches long, ¾ of an inch thick, and varying in width according to the size of the ink bottle.



Allow ¾ of an inch at the back to be lowered slightly for lead pencil; at the right lower a square place for the ink bottle, and at the left an oblong place for pens.



Line these lowered places with velvet or plush, and around and between them leave a raised band ¾ of an inch wide.

The second illustration shows the end view of the tray.

Mrs. Nettie Wreath will entertain the Club next week, and will answer Grandma's request for a knitted band for infants.

The Club has a membership of 32, with new additions almost every week, and the editor is most heartily grateful to the Household women for turning her duties in this department into a downright "pleasure exertion."

THINGS OF INTEREST

TO WOMEN ESPECIALLY, BUT ALL WILL LIKE TO READ THEM.

They Are Gathered From the Four Corners of the Earth and Given a Place In This Column.

It matters not if we outlive
All vernal grace that youth can give,
If fair with prescient fragrance rife,
Blooms 'mid the falling leaves of life.
—Harpers Bazar.

The death of Mrs. W. H. Brookfield, the woman to whom Thackeray looked for inspiration, says a writer in the Illustrated American, sets one musing over the subject of woman's influence and man's ability, which at times are like the spark and the tinder.

In a man's inner self lie possibilities unguessed by their owner, dormant strong, like a sleeping Samson. Some day a word from a comprehending soul ends the sleep; work follows—the best work of which the man is capable. He probes his soul to its depth and finds things he little dreamed of, which, if he is artistic, he gives to the world.

If they were not his he could not bestow them; but without an inspiration from outside he would not have developed them.

Mrs. Brookfield was the woman whose mind most stimulated that of the great novelist. Had she been a lesser woman the best resources of his nature would have lain dormant, and both Thackeray and the world would have been poorer.

The above paragraphs will not lose their interest by the addition of the following:

"The anniversary of the death of William Makepeace Thackeray did not pass unremembered at Westminster Abbey by at least one admirer of the works of the great English satirist and novelist," says a writer in the London Daily Mail. "Shortly after evensong an attendant discovered that a bunch of violets had been hung around the neck of the bust in Poets' Corner, and attached was a card bearing the following inscription: 'William Makepeace Thackeray, died December 24, 1863. Adsum. And his heart throbbed with an exquisite joy.'"

The following is commended to those whose hobby is Early Rising, and who make the lives of those who like to sleep later a weary burden through their animadversions:

He who would thrive
Must rise at five.
—Old Proverb.

He who would thrive more
Must rise by four.
He who'd still more thriving be
Must leave his bed at least by three.
And who this latter would out-do,
Will rouse up at the stroke of two.

CLIMAX.

He who'd never be outdone
Must surely rise as soon as one.

BUT

He who'd flourish best of all
Should never go to bed at all.
—Old Scrap-Book.

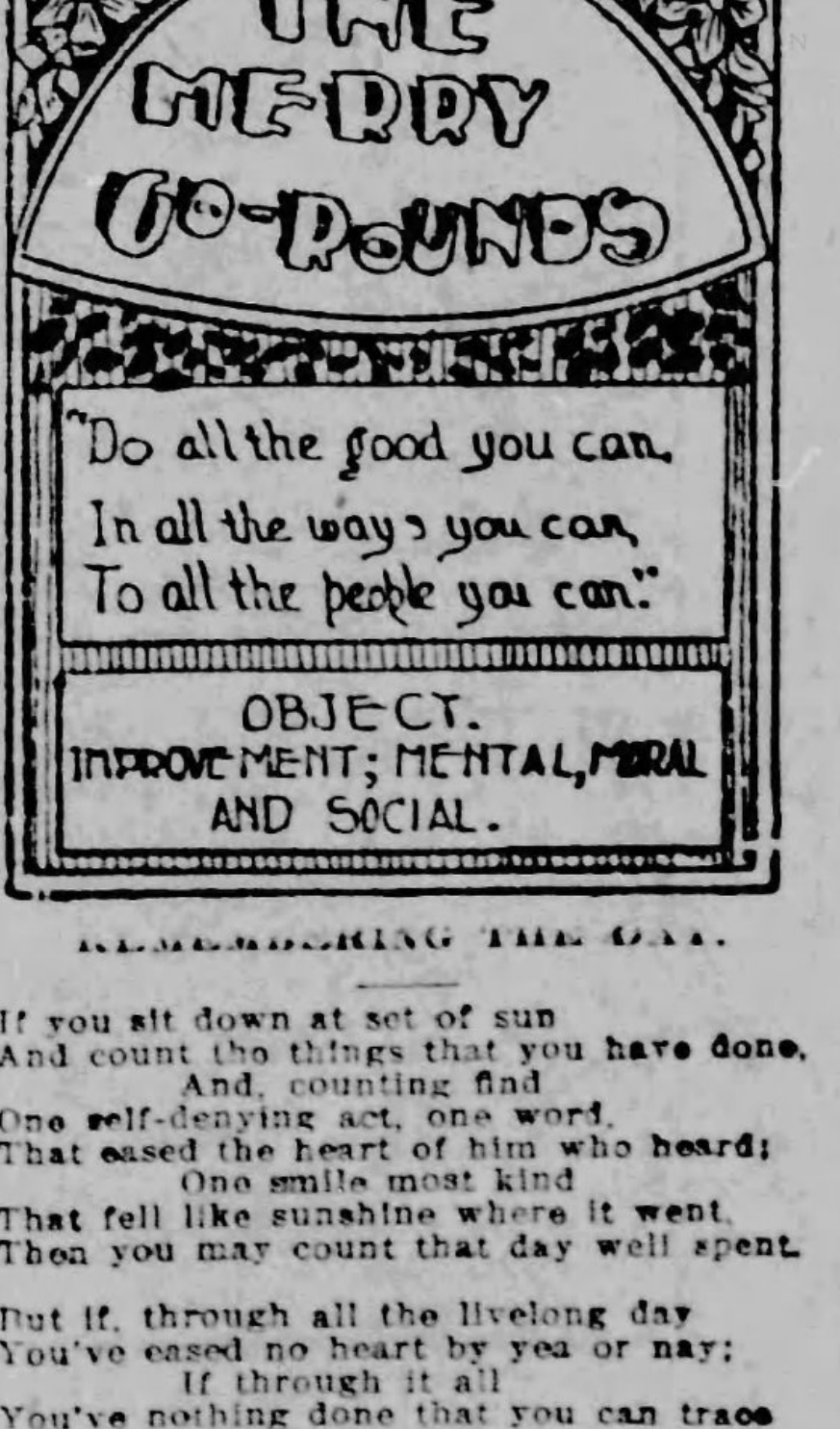
It is well understood in Europe that if a man marries into an untitled family it is better for him to marry an American than a woman of any other nationality, for the same reason that Napoleon III. gave for making choice of a Spaniard—she had no family in France to be enriched and ennobled. Europeans don't trouble themselves much about American social distinctions, and can't understand the difference between a fortune made in 1797 and one made in the same way in 1897. Many of the diplomatic corps have married Americans; there have been several marriages of Washington girls to secretaries of legation and attaches within the last year, and a large proportion of them have turned out well. American women are natural diplomats. A European woman is born and bred in a certain rank of life, and although she may be transported to another rank, she takes with her the stamp of the grade to which she belongs. Not so an American woman. As the wife of the Premier of Great Britain, she would put Lady Clara Vere de Vere to shame by her quick adoption of most of the characteristics of the daughter of a hundred earls. There is less risk in an American girl marrying a diplomat than any other sort of a foreigner—for a diplomat is under bonds to behave himself. But if she is ambitious, and desires to make a really brilliant match, she ought to marry a citizen of the United States.—The Illustrated American.

Work thou for self alone, and life shall die at death;
For others live, and lo! death shall be God's own wreath.
—Charles P. Nettleton.

Kate Field's life is one not only rich in its lessons, as must always be a life occupied with great themes, but is also singularly fascinating in its romantic interest. She had the imaginative temperament of the artist, combined with a clear intellectual force, a passionate devotion to truth, a loyalty to honor, and a greatness of view that is most exceptional. As artiste, author, editor and lecturer, she won distinction; as the friend to those privileged to know her in the closer intimacy of mutual affection, she was ideal—in her sincerity, her noble and tender comprehension, her boundless charity of thought.

Her entrance on the more significant life just beyond this is an event of interest and uplifting rather than of sadness. All her life here was a quest in search of light and truth. In that "life more abundant" her radiant spirit meets finer and more harmonious conditions, and in the close interpretation of the two worlds we can not fail to discern and recognize even here, the new efforts and larger results of the life and work of Kate Field.—Boston Budget.

The ring, as an accessory of the marriage ceremony, was in use long before the Christian era. In Egypt, at a very early time, gold money used to circulate in the form of rings, and the Egyptian, at his marriage, placed one of these gold rings on his wife's finger to signify that he intrusted her with all his property. So, too, with us, when the bridegroom places the ring on his bride's finger, he says: "With all my worldly goods I thee endow." It has always, so far as is known, been placed on the fourth finger. During the reign of Elizabeth, however, Englishwomen used to transfer it to the thumb, immediately after the marriage ceremony.


THE MERRY GO-ROUNDS
"Do all the good you can.
In all the ways you can
To all the people you can."
OBJECT.
IMPROVEMENT; MENTAL, MORAL AND SOCIAL.

REMEMBERING THE DAY.

If you sit down at set of sun
And count the things that you have done,
 And, counting find
One self-denying act, one word,
That eased the heart of him who heard;
 One smile most kind
That fell like sunshine where it went,
Then you may count that day well spent.

But if, through all the livelong day
You've eased no heart by yea or nay;
 If through it all
You've nothing done that you can trace
That brought the sunshine to a face;
 No act most small
That helped some soul and nothing cost,
Then count that day as worse than lost.

How many of the Merry Go Rounders make a practice of "remembering the day," and deciding each night the question of whether or no they have that day lived up to their motto? If you can find that you have done one "self-denying act," or "eased the heart" of some one person by a kind word or a pleasant smile, if you have had opportunity for doing no more, then you can feel that you have done all the good you can, but if you cannot remember something of this kind, then it must be that you have not made a practical application of the motto, for the opportunities are never lacking if one looks for them.

Miss Prudence is feeling very happy to-day because she has just received two very nice personal letters from her girls, Mary G. Round and Carrie Kepner, the Iowa state president, have written her such pleasant words of appreciation that she feels encouraged to continue her efforts to help Blade young people to help themselves, even though she does have to scold them occasionally in regard to their spelling. To these girls, and to the others who have sent her kind words in their letters, Miss Prudence returns very heartfelt thanks, and joins in their wish that this year may prove most helpful to all of us.

A new member, Ethelyn, of Illinois, comes to-day to give her vote in favor of the "teachers' circle" of the M. G. R. Did Ethelyn ever live in Indiana? Her name and writing remind Miss Prudence of a former acquaintance, whose address has been for some years unknown to her.

Missourian has a very good suggestion to make:

I have no patience, Gilliat, with one who cannot find something to do; why don't you read, study, or help some one who has lots of work to do? There is plenty to do if we try to find it, at least, I have always found it the case. Budd, of Illinois, may tell of the crow roost, but I can tell of the rattlesnake and blacksnake den that is only two miles from us. What a lot of teachers we have in our M. G. R. Why cannot each member state what their occupation is? I am sure it would be interesting to all. What am I doing? Well, I am a law student, so you know what I am going to do if nothing happens to prevent.

We might form "circles" of other occupations than school teaching if every one would act upon this suggestion, and in that way make the M. G. R. a means of help to very many of its members.

Sirayo, our Spanish correspondent from California, has just returned from a visit to her native country, and writes an interesting account of Christmas in the Valley of the Guadalahara, but as she wrote on both sides of her paper, Miss Prudence must enjoy it alone.

Another truant has returned—Frank Hume—who came to express his approval of Takigrafer's little sermon. Do not stay away so long again.

Country Greeney, makes his bow and gives the pleasing information that there isn't a saloon in the county in which he lives, and gives Miss Prudence a cordial invitation to visit Tennessee the next time she visits her friends, for which she thanks him and hopes to be able to accept it. If possible she would have given his letter entire, but space forbids this week. Come again.

Our Egyptian Friend suggests a subject for January, and, as that month is so nearly gone, we will extend the time through February, and hope to hear from every member.

My M. G. R. friends, this department is an unquestioned success, but is there not yet room for improvement? Miss Prudence suggests that we have a teachers' circle in the M. G. R. column. I think it is just what we need, and would be pleased to hear what every teacher in the circle thinks of it.

With the consent of the Chaperone, I would like to hear, in a few words, what is the highest worldly ambition of each member of the M. G. R. Mine is, to so live, that the world will be made better physically, morally, intellectually and spiritually, and when I am called away be able to go "Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch about him and lies down to pleasant dreams."

The Pennsylvania president sends an apology to his state workers for having neglected to send their answers to the questions last year. He was prevented by the very serious illness of a member of his family from doing so until it was so late that he thought it not advisable, but promises to do better in the future.

Our Country Cousin writes:

I wish to extend my sincerest sympathy to Phrenologist in his loneliness. Had I known he was in the matrimonial market I surely would have—but pardon me, Dec. 31 is past. I beg to differ from him in regard to members of different churches living agreeably together. I know a couple who have lived together for years, one being a Methodist, the other a Baptist, and a happier or more devoted pair it has never been my good fortune to meet. While it is possible for a couple to live happy together under above named conditions, it is not probable that they would all do so, and consequently I think it is much better for both to be members of one church.

What has become of Make Haste? Did we girls give him such a warm reception that he has forsaken us? Come again, cousin, and we will promise to treat you better next time, if you won't make any rash statements.

Attention: Iowa members, while your president makes a few remarks to you:

Dear M. G. R.—My address is Carrie M. Kepner, Iowa hospital, Clarinda, Ia., instead of Independence, as so many of my Iowa members seem to think. I have one of the pretty badges of our circle and very proud I feel in wearing it. I should like to give my Iowa members a little lecture—but will refrain, and only say—dear members, will you not make a New Year's resolution, with your president, to be ready and willing, during the coming year, to do whatever Miss Prudence asks of us? We may not be able to write with as ready a pen, or the flow and dash of some; but we can do our best, and "angels can do no more," and that is all that is asked of us.

Remember, it is always by trying, never letting an opportunity go by that we reach great heights. So will you not be ready to send in your papers to your president who will try and do her duty by being prompt in sending them to Miss Prudence.

Elaine has a word for all, in general, and some in particular. Do not hesitate to come often, Elaine, you are always welcome, even though you have to "take a back seat sometimes in order to make room for the newer members. It will give you practice in composition to write to us, even though we cannot always enjoy seeing your letters in print.

I am very proud to belong to such an organization as the M. G. R. and although this, my last year in public school, is the busiest for me, I can always find time to read the M. G. R. column, and it is one of the most interesting departments in the Blade. I, too, would like to see some of the old, familiar members taking their places in the Merry-go-Round. Where are Esme Roy, Forest Neely, Little Rhody, Sam Igotus, Blushing Fifteen, Nana, Sweet Viburnum, and all the others who have been absent so long?

Chinook Wind, I agree with you that much harmless pleasure may be derived from popular amusements if they are enjoyed at the proper time and place, and people will not be harmed by these innocent pleasures if they do not indulge in them to excess.

Lena Rivers, I think the happiest time is not in pursuit but in the first flush of possession when the object so eagerly desired is in our grasp. Neither in pursuit nor after possession do we feel so much pleasure as in the moment of satisfied desire. But when we have worked longest and most eagerly for anything its attainment gives us most satisfaction.

Phrenologist, what a pity that your letter did not appear last year. I doubt not that the golden opportunity you set forth would have been gladly seized by numberless M. G. R. girls! I do not think that husband and wife should have any cause for religious disputation.

Hoosere Puer Poeta, I admire your sentiments.

Now I know that Miss Prudence is endowed with an unusual amount of that virtue called patience, but I fear that even her forbearnace will be worn out by the time she gets to the end of this letter and so I'll close at once.

Coralyn, the letter you sent will be forwarded, and it was a very kindly thought of yours to send it, where it will, doubtless, prove a very welcome guest. The editor is glad you have found "Life's Gateways" so satisfactory, and assures you that you are right as to the color of the eyes in the portrait of the Author, they are dark, not blue.

Some one asks why the letters of the M. G. R.'s were not given entire, as they formerly were. The reason is very evident—the letters are increasing in number every week and the space allowed in the Blade does not increase in proportion, and in order to hear from each one the editor is obliged to condense the letters, a thing that is very unpleasant for her to do, as she would like to give them all in full, even though it needed the whole of the Blade to accommodate them. That would be a pretty good paper, would it not, if we could have one edition all M. G. R.?

"Bearing others' burdens day by day,
Guiding trembling footsteps on their way,
Doing deeds of kindness, smiles to bring,
This is being loyal to The King."

Our Young Folks.

For Our Young Folks.

DOZEY-LAND.

"Hush my baby. Hush a bye,"
Fades the lights from Rosy-land.
Softly in thy cradle lie,
Test the sweets of Dozey-land.

Fold your hands, and close your eyes,
Dream the Fays in Posy-land.
Blow the sunshine from the skies,
Tuck the dark in Dozey-land.

Fold your wings, my darling dove,
Nid-nod! Snug in Cozy-land.
Baby, Papa's and Mamma's love
Leads the way to Dozey-land.

God shall kiss each dimpled charm
He is king in Rosy-land.
He to fend from every harm
Locks the doors of Dozey-land.
THOS. G. CLAY.

MISS PRUDENCE'S TOWER

Continued Through Maryland, the Two Virginias and North Carolina.

(Continued.)

"Maryland, My Maryland" in the person of Miss Mary Stotlar, received me with cordial hospitality; and after luncheon, and a short rest at her home, "Sumac Cottage," near the green banks of the Potomac, she took me across the river in her skiff, and we spent the afternoon (or evening as they call it in the South) sightseeing in the old town of Hancock, where we explored a cemetery more than a century old; took supper at the lighthouse, and went home by moonlight.

Next morning we rose early and took the train for Berkeley Springs in West Virginia. This is a famous watering place; the railroad leading to it is only six miles long and follows a winding stream which it crosses several times, being walled in on either side by high hills, green and beautiful, with just a tinge now of autumn's coloring.

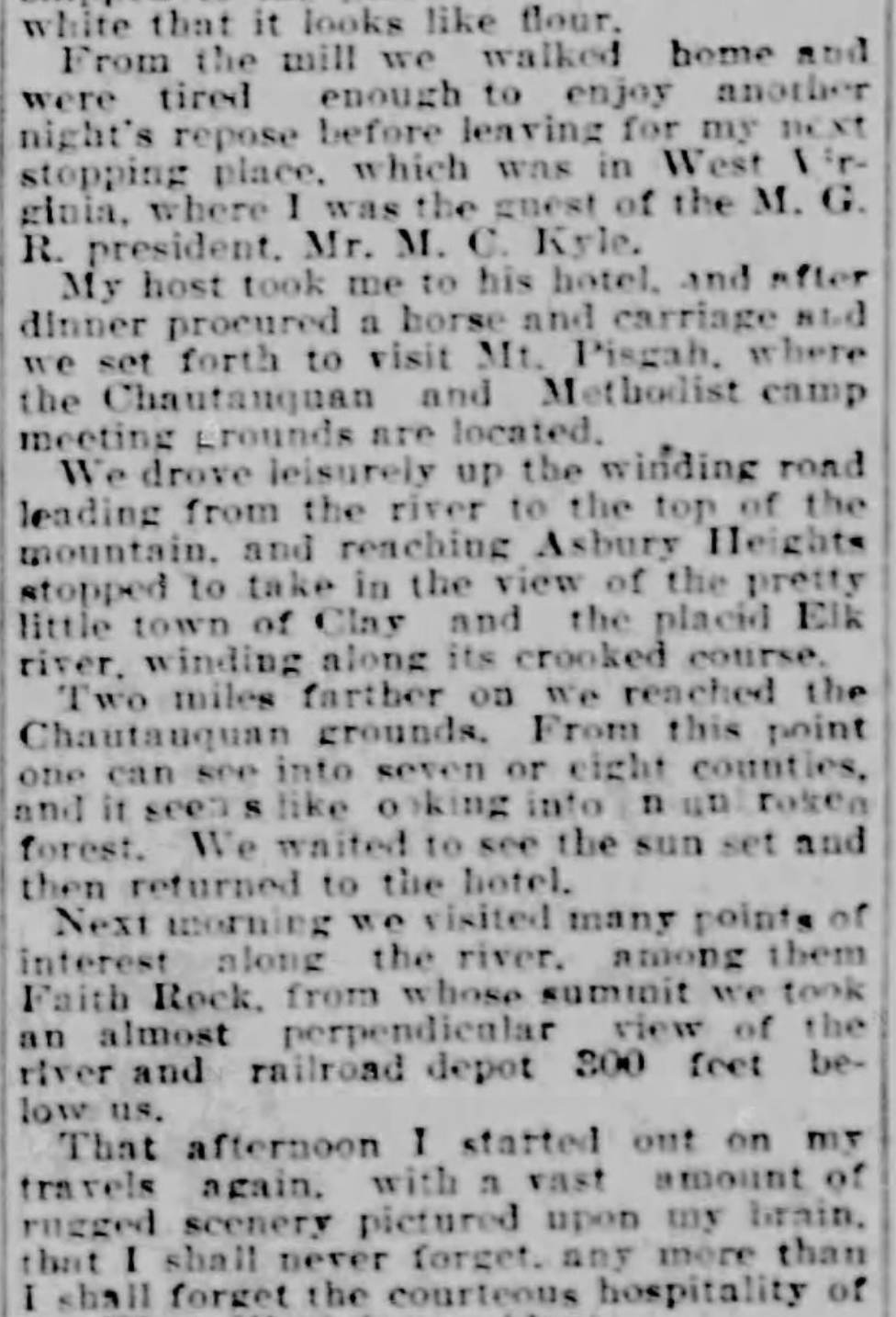
On arriving at Berkeley we went directly to the park, where the famous warm water bubbles out of the ground in one large pool and two springs. There is a large bath house and people visit it from all parts of the country, as the water is said to have great curative powers.

In order to be "up to the times," we took a bath, and then had dinner at the Fairfax Inn, afterward looking with more or less respect at a tree, said to have been planted by G. Washington, Esq.

On the return home I was prevailed upon to stay another day and visit a rock called Lover's Leap.

This is about ten miles from Miss Stotlar's home, so we took a lunch and stayed all day.

The rock is so high that, viewed from its summit, a large passenger car looks like a small street car, and the river, the canal, the B. & O. R. R. and all the lovely Maryland homes were spread out before us like a beautiful picture.



The rock is a legend, of course, concerning an Indian maiden whose course of true love, so far from running smooth, took her and her dusky sweetheart over the edge of this rock, her father coming in as a close second in the race.

After luncheon, we walked down the mountain side until we reached an open tunnel where white sand is being mined, and from there rode down the railroad on a truck to the sandmill, where the sand is ground, washed, screened, dried and shipped to the glass factories. It is so white that it looks like flour.

From the mill we walked home and were tired enough to enjoy another night's repose before leaving for my next stopping place, which was in West Virginia, where I was the guest of the M. G. R. president, Mr. M. C. Kyle.

My host took me to his hotel, and after dinner procured a horse and carriage and we set forth to visit Mt. Pisgah, where the Chautauquan and Methodist camp meeting grounds are located.

We drove leisurely up the winding road leading from the river to the top of the mountain, and reaching Asbury Heights stopped to take in the view of the pretty little town of Clay and the placid Elk river, winding along its crooked course.

Two miles farther on we reached the Chautauquan grounds. From this point one can see into seven or eight counties, and it seems like looking into an unbroken forest. We waited to see the sun set and then returned to the hotel.

Next morning we visited many points of interest along the river, among them Faith Rock, from whose summit we took an almost perpendicular view of the river and railroad depot 300 feet below us.

That afternoon I started out on my travels again, with a vast amount of rugged scenery pictured upon my brain, that I shall never forget, any more than I shall forget the courteous hospitality of my West Virginia president.

In Virginia I received a cordial welcome from another M. G. R. president, Miss Nora Williams, our drive to her home being a very pleasant one.

With a backward glance to the southward, where the Iron Mountains rose blue and hazy in the distance, and beyond towered a high peak of White Top, 4,200 feet above sea level, we left the little town of Chilhowie and drove slowly along, enjoying every foot of the way.

Soon we entered a little valley surrounded by rows of hills, and journeying on between them, reached the home of my hostess, where I found two more of my girls, Virginia Rose and Peggy Short, awaiting me with as warm a welcome as their sister had given me; after supper I was glad to retire early to be ready for next day's campaign.

As the president had to attend to her school duties Virginia Rose entertained me through the morning hours, first by showing me some of Peggy's drawings, and her other sister's literary efforts, and afterward by taking me chestnutting.

In the afternoon we visited the school and were delighted with the evidences of Miss Williams's skill as a teacher, manifested by the good recitations of her 40 pupils.

Phrenologist called soon after our return home, and being anxious to investigate the "bumps" on the Chaperone's head, with a view to ascertaining whether or no she might be an exception among the sex who have been designated in the column as having "smaller brains" and "longer tongues" than their masculine highnesses, was permitted to do so, and gave me a most amusing and flattering "reading."

Soon after he took his leave, Wanda appeared, having come to make one of a very merry party who started out next morning well supplied with luncheon, in search of new worlds to conquer.

After a seven-mile drive, we reached the pretty little town of Saltville, where we spent two pleasant hours inspecting the Alkali Works, finding much that was interesting and instructive.

We then ascended a hill and looked down upon another picture quite as beautiful, though very different from any that I had seen before, since coming into this wonderful region of hills and valleys.

It seemed almost like sacrilege to sit down in the midst of so much grandeur, and eat our luncheon, but we did it, and enjoyed the luncheon none the less because of the scenery.

Our homeward route took us past Washington Springs, a pretty summer resort, and leaving Wanda at her home near by, we reached home just before sundown, quite ready to sample Virginia Rose's cookery once more before taking an evening train for North Carolina.

Here I was the guest of Miss Mary Davis, who took me early the next morning after my arrival, to visit the Devil's Glen, a beautiful cave in the mountain side, 400 feet deep.

As it is only about a mile from her home, we soon reached its entrance, and lighting some torches, started on our tour of exploration, which brought us, after traversing a distance of perhaps 300 feet, into a large square room known as the Devil's dining-room. Here were the bones of many animals, and some that are said to be human bones.

This was "discovery" enough for one morning, and we were glad to return to daylight and to the discussion of a good country dinner.

In the afternoon we visited the Falls on Cedar Creek, where the water takes a leap of two hundred feet. The next day we visited Chimney Rock, a famous chimney-shaped rock 175 feet high. We ascended by a stairway to the top of this rock, where we found ourselves on a smooth table 40 feet square.

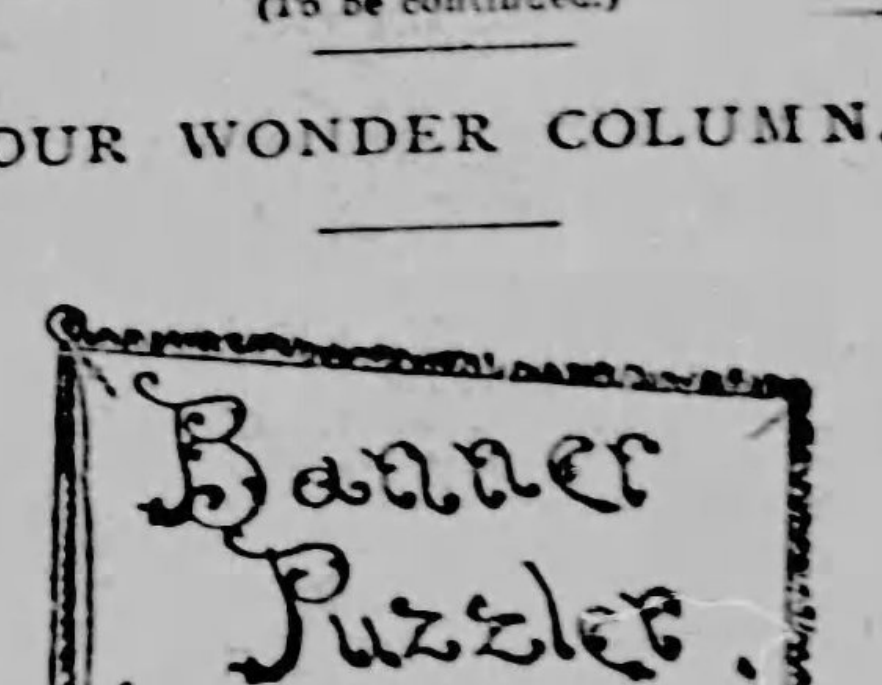
In the afternoon we visited the Bottomless Pools, two beautiful pools cut in the rock, and seemingly without bottom; these are on the upper Broad River, two miles above Chimney Rock P. O.

A pleasant drive through Broad River valley brought us to Tiger P. O., where we had a magnificent view of the Bald mountain's pinnacle, the highest peak in Rutherford county.

We reached home late in the evening, and next morning my hostess drove me to the Black Mountain station, and sent me on my way with the kindest of farewells.

(To be continued.)

OUR WONDER COLUMN.


Banner Puzzler.
New England Girl.

1.—WHO WAS HE?

He was born Sept. 1, 1785, in Amherst Co., on the James river in Virginia. His parents were very poor, and could not give him the education he desired, but at the age of eighteen years, he entered the university of the M. E. church, being styled the "Backwoods Preacher." He spent fifty-three years in his chosen profession, was a warm friend of Gen. Andrew Jackson, and was personally acquainted with the famous Mormon Joseph Smith, whom he nick-named "Clumsy Joe." After writing a history of his eventful life, he retired to Pleasant Plains, Ill., where he died about 1860.

LENA RIVERS.

2.—21 HIDDEN OHIO TOWNS.

Just at Otto led out my horse yesterday, Tony came along. "That's a slim and angular beast," he cried; "and that cart must have been built in the time of LaFayette." I smiled, but Otto was mad and grew stiff in a minute. "Christopher Columbus!" he yelled. "There's not a better rig anywhere in town." "Considering its age, no; and for a suburban animal it does very well. But be reasonable Otto; Berlin life should have taught you to control your temper. If you do not, your fate may be that of the St. Louis man who swore at his head 'cause his hat was too small, and the cockroaches ate him, man-hat-and-all." "Can't one of you men kill a couple of fat hens for me?" called Elizabeth at this moment, and with a look of defiance at the dread-ful Tony, Otto left us at a peculiar pace that was neither a run nor walk.

TERENA O'SHAUGHNESSY.

3.—BIBLICAL DIAMOND.

1.—A consonant.
2.—A tribe of Israel.
3.—A kind of fruit.
4.—A publican.
5.—One who returned from Babylon.
6.—A patriarch (Luke III, 26).
7.—A consonant.

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NEWT.

4.—ARITHMETICAL PROBLEM.

How many square yards of carpet will be required to cover a strip [illegible] inches wide, diagonally across the floor of a room whose sides are 16 by 20 feet; the four corners of the carpet touching the four walls of the room?

W. P. E.

5.—QUOTATION.

Who wrote:

"'Tis better to be lowly born
And range with humble lives in content,
Than to be perked up in a glistering grief,
And wear a golden sorrow."

ESME ROY.

6.—QUERY.

Who can tell us about the Corsned?

C. M. B.

Answers to Puzzles of January 21.

1. Horace Greeley.
2. Words forming rhomboid: Across—Elsa; Otto, your, prey; down—E., lo, sir, atop, our, re, y.
3. "Lord remember me, when thou comest into thy kingdom."
4. 2.4142 inches.

Rudyard Kipling wrote:

"Help me to need no aid from men,
That I may help such men as need."

Concerning the query of January 14 "Who ate Roger Williams," the propounder, Elfa, says: "He was buried under an apple tree, and when the grave was opened several years afterward, it was found that the coffin was filled with a fine net-work of roots that had grown around the form of the founder of Rhode Island, of whom there was nothing left."

Answering the question in all seriousness, C. M. B. thinks Elfa made a mistake in the person, and should have referred to John Williams, a missionary, who was eaten by savages, Nov. 20, 1839, on one of the South Sea Islands.

Simpleton writes: "Feeling somewhat conscious stricken we own right up that we ate Roger Williams, but we didn't expect to get found out so soon!"

Chat.

Arion wins the January Bannership; A. Faul second, N. E. Girl third.

Correct solutions were received from N. Holt, Arion, Simpleton, N. E. Girl, C. M. B., S. W., Pauline, A. Faul, Helen, A. Augenstein, and B. Van Norman.

Puzzles were accepted from N. Holt, Arion, Simpleton, N. E. Girl, C. M. B., A. Faul and B. Van Norman.

Simpleton:—Self-confessed cannibal though you are, I gladly welcome you for your sister's (?) sake.

C. M. B.:—Answers may be sent on postals, and will be accepted any time before they have been published in the column.

A. Faul:—Your solutions were all credited and you came within four marks of a tie for the Bannership of this month.

Pauline:—Miss Prudence and the Schoolmistress are both very sorry about your eyes and hope they will soon improve. Both lists were received, though one was too late to be noticed last week.

GEN. RUSSELL A. ALGER.

General Russell A. Alger was born in Lafayette township, Medina county, O., February 27, 1836. His grandfather served in the revolutionary war, and is claimed to have been a descendant of William the Conqueror. When eleven years of age both his parents died. For the next seven years he worked on a farm, earning money to defray his expenses at the Richfield, O., academy during the winters. Subsequently he taught school, and in March, 1857, entered a law office in Akron. Two years later he was admitted to the bar. He entered the law office of Otis & Coffinbury in Cleveland, but abandoned the practice of law the following autumn on account of failing health and moved to Grand Rapids, Mich., where he engaged in the lumber business and where, in 1861, he married Annette H. Henry.

In 1861, Alger enlisted in the second cavalry and was made captain of Company C. He was wounded in the battle of Booneville, Miss. Owing to his part in this engagement he was promoted to the rank of major. In '62 he became lieutenant colonel of the sixth Michigan cavalry, his regiment being in Custer's famous brigade. In 1864 his health induced him to retire from the service. He was breveted brigadier and major-general "for gallant and meritorious services," and was on private service in 1863-64, receiving orders personally from President Lincoln.

In 1865 he removed to Detroit where he has since been extensively engaged in lumber and pine land business. He was a member of the firm of Moore & Alger and became the head of the firm of R. A. Alger & Co., then the most extensive pine timber operators in the west. Subsequently the firm was merged into that of Alger, Smith & Co., which owns and operates extensive tracts and mills in Michigan and in the Canadian Georgian Bay region.

Gen. Alger was elected governor of Michigan in 1884, receiving a plurality of 3,950 votes over Begole, fusionist. His administration of state affairs was considered highly successful. In 1888 he was one of the leading candidates for the Republican nomination for president. The acrimony which developed between the Alger workers and those of Senator Sherman, who was also a candidate, was intense, and the breach of friendship caused thereby between the general and the senator is believed to have been only recently healed.

Gen. Alger served one term as commander in chief of the G. A. R. He is of exceptionally generous and kindly disposition and is especially beloved by the veterans and by his friends in Michigan. He has three sons and three daughters.

News of the Week.

The Blade is a newspaper for free American citizens, and under the above head, aims to give first, those events which are the history and progress of the world for the week—those which every intelligent man needs to know and should know; second, all important political events; and lastly, the leading minor occurrences that possess interest to every educated and thinking reader.

THE CABINET.

GAGE FOR THE TREASURY.

The Illinois Man is Offered the Place, and Accepts.

Canton, O., Jan. 29.—The secretary of the treasury in the McKinley cabinet has been selected.

At 7:30 o'clock last evening Lyman J. Gage, president of the First National bank, of Chicago, emerged from the dining room of the McKinley home to fill an appointment with the Associated Press and special correspondents, to tell them the result of his conference with Major McKinley. He said:

"Mr. McKinley offered me the treasury portfolio. I told him I would accept the high honor and fill the position to the best of my ability."

Washington, Jan. 29.—President-elect McKinley's formal offer of the secretaryship to Mr. Gage and Mr. Gage's acceptance thereof was the chief topic of conversation in political circles at the capital last night. The appointment is well received and warmly praised by many public men.

When the news that Mr. Gage was under consideration for this post first reached the capital there was a general disposition to make light of it. No one questioned Mr. Gage's fitness for the post, but men who have been trained in political life could not think it possible Major McKinley could rise to the level of choosing for such an important post a man who has neither a political record nor much sympathy with practical or machine politics.

This appointment really marks a new era in the affairs of the government, for it puts in the most important administrative office a man whose sole claim to distinction is his ability, character and personal fitness for the work, politics being almost lost sight of in the selection.

Public men who are interested in an early and wholesome solution of the currency problem say the appointment of Mr. Gage to the Treasury is a happy one. They think the secretary's influence will be exerted in the direction of a gradual retirement of the greenbacks, and they count upon him to offset the influence of Secretary of State Sherman, who is still riding his hobby of retaining the greenbacks in full circulation. There are good reasons for saying that Major McKinley favors a gradual retirement of the greenbacks as they come into the Treasury, and that he believes this can easily be done with sufficient revenue. At any rate there is a feeling that in all these important questions relating to the currency and the revenues and the banking system President McKinley will have a safe and sound adviser.

MR. GAGE'S VIEWS.

Gold and Bank Notes the Proper Currency.

New York, Feb. 1.—A special to the World from Chicago says:

The World submitted in writing to Mr. Lyman J. Gage a number of questions concerning the most vital issues with which he will deal as secretary of the treasury. Mr. Gage with great candor and courtesy makes his position clear on all of them as follows:

"Our whole monetary system is the resultant of makeshift legislation and unscientific compromise. It is time that reforms began.

"In my opinion the greenbacks should be permanently retired. The silver purchased under the Sherman act should be gradually sold and the treasury notes redeemed and cancelled. Some well guarded system of bank note circulation, broader and more elastic than the present national bank act provides, should be inaugurated.

"Such bank notes should be redeemable at a central place and be redeemable in gold only.

"Silver certificates, which form nearly one-fifth of the circulating medium of the United States are dangerous. By their use a volume of inferior money has found an abnormal use. They are the most perplexing feature on the most involved problem of our national finances.

"There is no reason why the government should act as a warehouseman for either gold or silver. Such a function is outside its proper limit of action.

Silver a Standing Menace.

"But we are faced by a condition. The enormous amount of $500,000,000 of silver, represented by $333,000,000 in silver certificates, added to the $150,000,000 purchased by the government under the Sherman act constitutes a standing menace to every business interest.

"To sum up, the defects of our present currency system are:

"1.—Confusing heterogeneity which needs simplification.

"2.—The greenback controverts the principle of paper money, viz: that every note injected into the commercial sytem should represent an existing commercial value.

"3.—The treasury note is a standing evidence of a foolish operation—the creation of a debt for the purchase on a falling market of a commodity for which the purchaser has no use; it lies open to the just charge of being both idiotic and immoral.

"4.—The national bank note merely conforms to the true principle of paper money, but the unreasonable requirements for security paralyzes its efficiency and operate to destroy its elasticity.

"5.—The silver certificate encourages the use of silver to a larger extent than is consistent with the safe preservation of that metal on a parity with gold."

"Would a national commission help to promote reform?"

"There is no reason to hope that it would be of great service in that direction. Such a commission if rightly elected would throw a flood of light upon these involved questions. The information it might gather would be of immense value to all our people, and would guide us to wise legislation.

"Emotion and sentiment are not safe guides in matters of science. A clear apprehension of the principles will lead to correct action.

"Reaction will be slow, but it is coming, and it will be of long duration."

SECRETARY OF WAR.

Gen. Russell A. Alger, of Michigan, Accepts.

Canton, O., Jan. 30.—"I have been tendered and have accepted the war portfolio."

Thus spoke General Russell A. Alger, of Michigan, to The Associated Press representative yesterday afternoon. The general had just emerged from the south parlor, which is the conference room while Mrs. McKinley is out of the city. He and Major McKinley had just completed the interview in which the formal tender and acceptance were passed.

Without saying anything more on the subject the general turned to several callers awaiting an audience with Major McKinley and then re-entered the parlor, where he remained until train time.

At 4:15 he returned to Cleveland to renew his conference of the morning with National Chairman Hanna, and will go thence to his home in Detroit.

The Associated Press representative saw him again at the station.

In the conversation there the general said that in the interview to-day the first overtures were made to him in connection with the cabinet, and that at no time before to-day had Major McKinley said anything directly or indirectly on the subject.

The general said that none of the appointments of his department had yet been disposed of or decided upon and that it would be some time before any announcements in that line could be made. The policy of the administration, he said, had not been considered, but even if it had, he was too much of a soldier to announce the policy of his superiors.

ALGER'S BOYHOOD.

Passed in the Midst of Great Poverty in Ohio.

Massillon, O., Feb. 1.—The last time General Alger visited Massillon was in 1890. He was with Major McKinley, and for the first time in 44 years had just revisited his birthplace, a few miles north of town, in Wayne county. It was touching to note the evidences of friendly regard on the part of the country people for the man who had gone out from them a poor boy, and who had won success.

"Talk about poverty," he then said, "you people do not know what real crushing, grinding poverty is. When I was nine years old I worked around Lafayette for two cups of flour a day. We had to use the flour I earned by hard work to thicken milk with, and it was all our family had between us and starvation."

Eventually Gen. Alger drifted north, and meeting with some success, was threatened with consumption. He was told to go into the pine woods, to save his life. Here he lived, and every morning before rising he lay flat on his back expanding his lungs as rapidly and completely as possible with the fresh pine air blowing through the room. To this treatment he attributes his cure. He became well and strong, made a fortune, and everybody knows the rest, although the foregoing facts related to The Blade correspondent by the general, have doubtless hitherto been unknown.

AGRICULTURAL PORTFOLIO.

It Will Go to James Wilson, of Iowa.

Chicago, Feb. 1.—The News Washington special says: Ex-Congressman James Wilson, of Iowa, has accepted the office of secretary of agriculture in President McKinley's cabinet. Senator Allison received a telegram from Mr. Wilson to-day saying he had accepted.

Wilson Says It Is So.

Des Moines, owa, Feb. 1.—Hon. James Wilson, of Ames, professor of agriculture in the Iowa Agricultural College, and director of the government experiment station, gave out positively to-day that he had been offered and accepted the secretaryship of Agriculture.

SPECULATION ON THE CABINET.

Talk Concerning Men for the Places Not Yet Filled.

St. Louis, Feb. 2.—A special from New York says: "Information has been received by members of the chamber of commerce of New York that President-elect McKinley will solve the cabinet question, as it relates to New York state by having a department of trade and commerce created early in his administration, and then placing a New Yorker at the head of it.

The work of the department as outlined will be chiefly to look after foreign commerce. The secretary of the department would have charge of the registration of ships, and would divide with the Treasury Department the work at different ports. His chief duty would be, however, to promote the American shipping industry by recommending legislation and taking other steps to restore the country in the position it once occupied in respect to shipping.

SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

Ex-Governor Longo, of Massachusetts, Said to Be Slated.

Washington, Feb. 2.—It is understood among Massachusetts Republicans in Congress that former Governor John D. Long, of Massachusetts, has been tendered, and has accepted the office of secretary of the navy in the incoming administration.

Bingham, Mass., Feb. 2.—John D. Long refused to confirm the statement that he had been tendered and had accepted the office of secretary of the navy under the incoming administration. He said he had heard nothing from Major McKinley on the subject.

Placing a California Man.

Washington, Feb. 2.—It is understood here that the position for which Judge Joseph McKenna, of California, is slated in the McKinley cabinet is that of attorney general, but that there are possibilities which may make it necessary to name him for secretary of the interior in the final arrangement of the cabinet of the new administration.

Rumor Regarding Depew.

New York, Feb. 2.—It is reported that Chauncey M. Depew last night received a dispatch from Major McKinley inviting him to accept the ambassadorship at the court of St. James. The report could not be confirmed.

GOFF WILL DECLINE.

Such is the Story Given Out by the Judge's Friends.

Parkersburg, W. Va., Jan. 30.—A special from Charleston, this state, says that a very close friend of Judge Nathan Goff has given out the information that Goff has declined the attorney-generalship in McKinley's cabinet, offered him by McKinley last week. He prefers to remain on the bench as district United States judge. One reason known is that the judge and his wife dislike Washington. A well founded rumor is abroad that Goff will be a candidate to succeed Senator Charles James Faulkner two years from now.

DAWES FOR COMPTROLLER.

Chicago Gets Another Important Treasury Office.

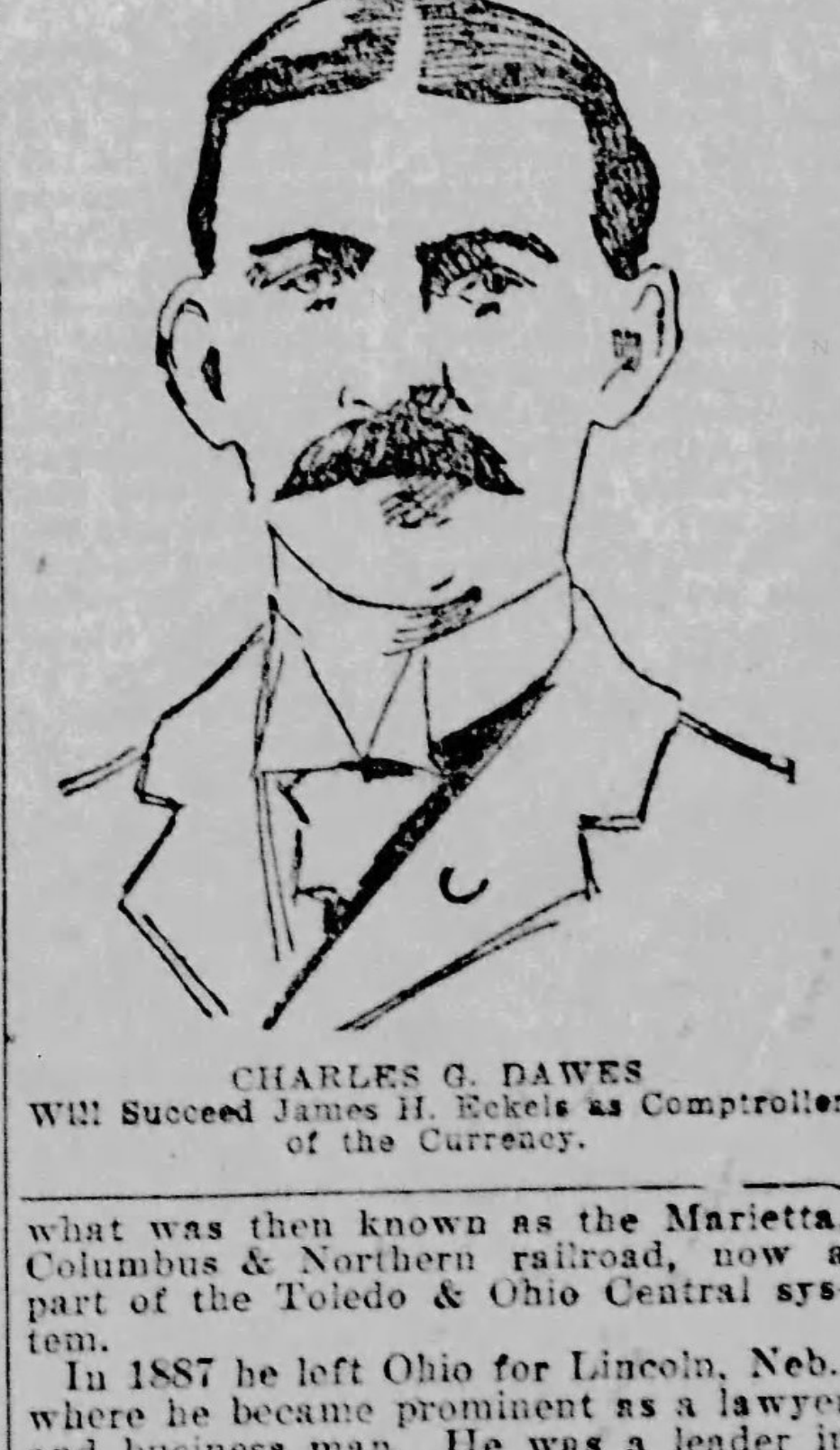
Chicago, Feb. 1.—Mr. Charles G. Dawes, who was seen by a representative of the Associated Press, this morning said: "The Associated Press report that I have been tendered and have accepted the appointment of comptroller of the currency is true.

"I have much regretted early publicity which has unavoidably attached to the matter, for it seems to have given rise to the inference that I had some desire or expectation of succeeding Mr. Eckels prior to the expiration of his commission in 1898. I can say for myself, and I think I speak for all concerned that I sincerely hope Mr. Eckels may see his way clear to the retention of his position until the expiration of his commission. His distinguished services as comptroller of the currency rendered amid so many embarrassments and complications have earned him the gratitude of the nation."

He is From Ohio.

Charles D. Dawes was born in Marietta, O., August 27, 1865, and graduated from Marietta college in 1884, and from the Cincinnati law school in 1886.

During his college days he acquired the profession of civil engineering, and spent his vacations at that work, becoming the chief engineer at the age of 19 years, of what was then known as the Marietta, Columbus & Northern railroad, now a part of the Toledo & Ohio Central system.



CHARLES G. DAWES
Will Succeed James H. Eckels as Comptroller of the Currency.

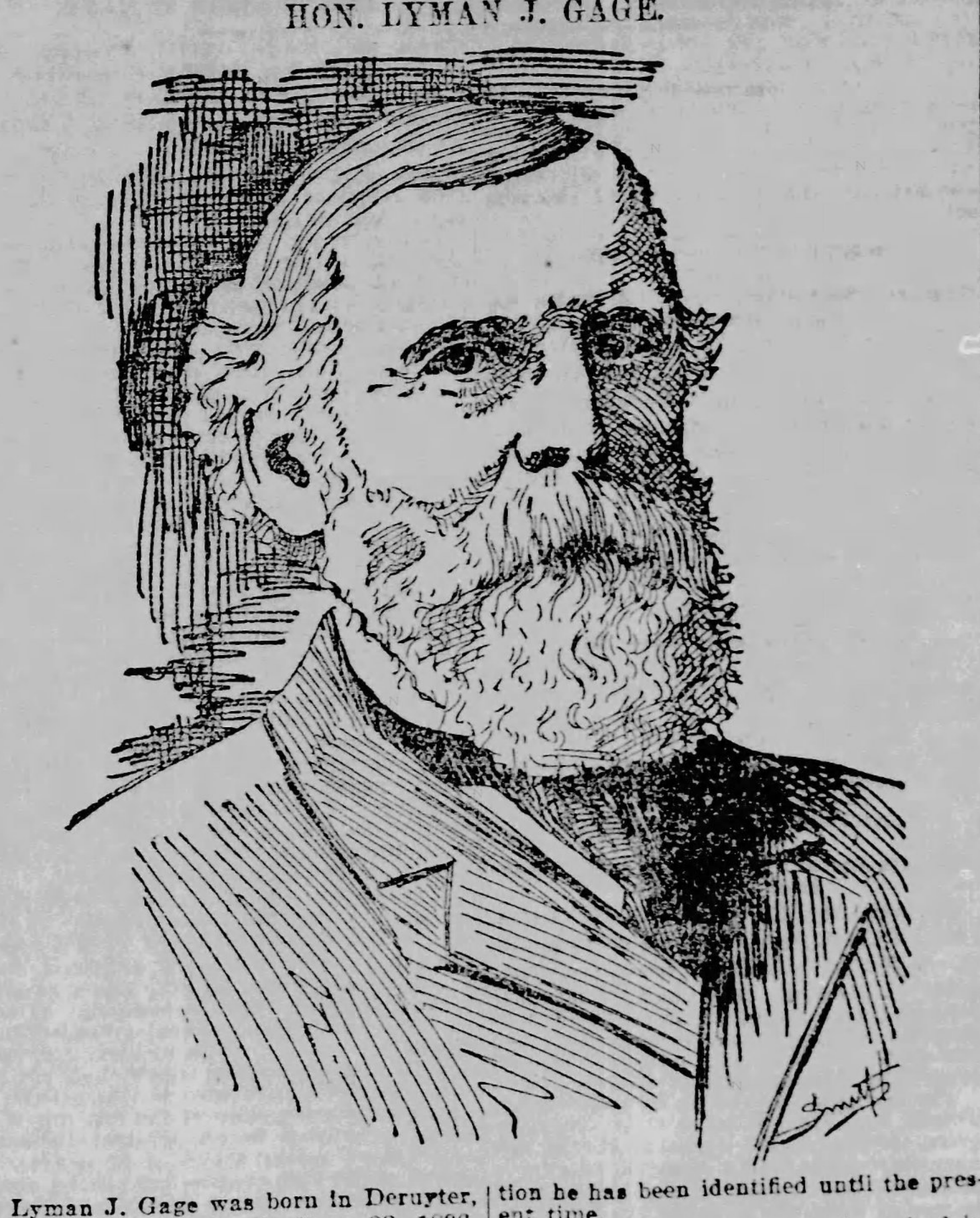
In 1887 he left Ohio for Lincoln, Neb., where he became prominent as a lawyer and business man. He was a leader in the discussions of the freight schedules of Nebraska, about the time and after the passage of the interstate commerce law. He was also a student of finances, and in 1894 published a book entitled "The Banking System of the United States and Its Relations to the Money and Business of the Country."

He has been for many years a national bank director. In 1893 he became a resident of Evanston, Ill., having become interested in the Northwestern Gas & Coke Co., of that place.

He was the leader of the McKinley movement in Illinois which ended in instructions for McKinley at the Springfield convention. He was then appointed by Mr. Hanna as the member from Illinois of the executive committee.

Mr. Dawes is president of the gas companies of Akron, O., LaCrosse, Wis., and Evanston, Ill., and is vice president of the Lincoln Packing Co. In 1889 he married Miss Caro D. Blymyer, of Cincinnati, and has two children. He is the son of Gen. R. R. Dawes, of Marietta, O., who was one of the commanders of the Iron Brigade in the late war, and is a great grandson of Manasep Cutler, one of the founders of Ohio.

HON. LYMAN J. GAGE.



Lyman J. Gage was born in Deruyter, Madison county, N. Y., June 28, 1836. His parents, who were both born in the state of New York, were of English stock. When Lyman J. Gage was ten years of age his parents moved to Rome, N. Y., where he entered the Rome academy, where he remained four years, the term he spent in that school practically constituting his entire school education. His first position in business life was as a clerk in the Rome postoffice, and after leaving there he became a route agent on the Rome & Watertown railroad. In 1854 he secured a position in the Oneida Central bank, of Rome, at a salary of $100 per year and remained with the bank 18 months. He came to Chicago in the fall of 1855 and was engaged as a bookkeeper by a lumber firm. His duties as bookkeeper, however, comprised the driving of one of the teams belonging to the firm, and loading and unloading lumber. He also acted for a time as night watchman. While he was thus engaged he was offered the position of bookkeeper of the Merchants' Saving, Loan and Trust Company, and this was the actual beginning of his career as a banker.

In the spring of 1860 he had worked his way up to the position of assistant cashier, and later to that of cashier, which he held until 1868, when he left the Merchants' Savings, Loan and Trust Company to accept a similar position with the First National bank, with which institution he has been identified until the present time.

The old charter of the bank expired in 1882 and upon its reorganization he was chosen vice president and general manager. About this time his financial ability was paid a high compliment by his election to the presidency of the American Bankers' Association. On Jan. 24, 1891 he was elected president of the First National bank and still holds that position.

He was prominent in all of the work that made the World's Fair a great success, and was one of the four men, J. J. P. O'Dell, Wirt Dexter and J. W. Doane being the others, who practically guaranteed that Chicago would carry out its pledge of raising $10,000,000 for the building of the fair. He was for a time president of the local board of directors, but upon his election to the presidency of the bank he was compelled to resign this office. He refused any remuneration for all the time he had spent as president of the local World's Fair directors, although a handsome salary had been voted for the position.

Mr. Gage has been twice married, his first wife being Miss Sarah Ethridge, of Little Falls, N. Y., whom he married in 1864. She died in 1874 and in 1887 he married Cornelia Gage, of Denver, Col.

He is a member of the Commercial and Union League Clubs, of this city, and personally is a very popular man. He is democratic in his manners, pleasant and affable and is easy of approach at all times.

TRAIN ROBBERY.

Express Car Blown Open With Dynamite.

Portland, Ore., Jan. 29.—The north-bound overland train, which left San Francisco Wednesday and is due here this morning, was held up two miles west of Roseburg, Ore., early this morning. As soon as possible, after the hold-up began, Fireman Hendricks, of the train crew, slipped out of the engine and ran on to Roseburg and gave the alarm. Arming himself quickly he started back to the scene of the trouble. Superintendent Fields, of the Southern Pacific road, who was at Roseburg, quickly took a posse of a dozen men and an engine and started for the scene.

The express car was looted and burned and the safe blown open. No one was hurt, and the highwaymen succeeded in making their escape.

Was a Bold Affair.

San Francisco, Jan. 29.—The following particulars of the train robbery near Roseburg, Ore., were given out by Southern Pacific officials here: Train No. 15, north-bound, Ogden express, was held up this morning at Shady Point, two miles south of Roseburg, by two or three men. The express car was detached from the train by the robbers and the door blown open with dynamite. Two small safes in the care were blown open and looted. The express car then took fire; the conductor and train men tried hard to save the car after the robbers had gone, but the car and contents were destroyed. The train was on time at Shady Point, where the engineer saw a man at the side of the track waving a flag. He slowed up for the signal, and as he brought the train to a stop the man armed with two revolvers came over the back of the tender and covered him. At the same time another armed man, the one who flagged the train, appeared at the side of the cab and pointing a revolver ordered the engineer not to attempt to move the train but to come down at once and go with them to the express car. The fireman in the meantime had gotten down on the other side. The two robbers and the engineer then went to the express car where the robbers ordered the express messenger to open the door. This he refused to do.

Separated the Train.

The robbers then uncoupled the express car, returned to the engine and backed the train, leaving the express car separated. Meantime the express messenger had seized the opportunity to step out of the car.

After breaking the train in two, the robbers returned to the express car and with heavy charges of dynamite, blew the door open. Entering the car they attacked two small safes which they succeeded in entering. The messenger thought the robbers did not understand getting into the big safe and consequently they could not have secured much money. The mail car was also visited by the robbers and registered letters taken.

The explosions set fire to the express car, when the robbers left it was a mass of flames. The train crew worked like trojans, but were unable to save it. The car and contents were almost totally destroyed by the fire. The passengers were considerably shaken up and frightened, but no one was injured. The hold-up will make the train ten hours late in getting into Portland. An imperfect description of one robber was secured.

DUBOIS LOST.

It Will Be George F. Turner, of Spokane.

Olympia, Wn., Jan. 29.—George F. Turner, of Spokane was last night nominated for United States senator in a caucus of Populists and free silver Republicans. He received 54 votes.

Judge Turner has been a Republican, but in the late election he supported Bryan. He is considered one of the ablest lawyers in the state of Washington. From 1884 to 1888 he was territorial governor. Within the past two years he has become largely interested in mines in Northern Washington and British Columbia.

Thos. Slater has a message for every man on page 3. Don't fail to read it.

TURNER, OF WASHINGTON.

Something About the New Man From the West.

Olympia, Wash., Jan 30.—In the joint assembly Judge Turner received 68 of the 87 votes of the fusionists or 11 more than a majority of the entire legislature. Of the nineteen fusionists who refused to vote for him, al were Populists except Williams, a silver Republican. The result of the first ballot was as follows: Turner, 68; Denny, 25; Westcott, 11; Squire, 1; Kreitz, 1; absent, 3.

SENATOR-ELECT TURNER.

The election of Turner retires to private life after the fourth of March Senator Squire, who has represented Washington in the Senate since it became a state in 1889.

Senator-elect Turner has been one of the most prominent politicians in Washington for the past ten years. Until the adoption of the St. Louis platform he was a member of the Republican party, but at that time he left the party and supported Bryan. He enjoys the distinction of having been one of the 306 delegates to the national Republican convention in 1880 who voted for Gen. Grant. He has for many years been an advocate of the free coinage of silver. He advocates the government ownership of railroads. Though always himself a strong believer in protective tariff, he now comes out for a modified tariff. He will stand with the silver Republicans, Democrats and Populists in the organization of the Senate. He has been a candidate for Senator four times and in 1893 he had a deadlock against Senator Allen for the entire session.

FOREIGN MATTERS.

TOPOLOBAMPO A FAILURE.

Americans In Mexico Who Would Like to Get Home.

Chihuahua, Jan. 28.—James Medsker, who was among the number of Americans who took up their residence at the Topolobampo, the co-operative colony west of here on the Pacific coast a few years ago, has just arrived in a destitute condition and is seeking to get back to the United States. He states that the few colonists remaining at Topolobampo are entirely without means of support and that they are suffering for food. They are several hundred miles from a railway and have given up hopes of returning to their old homes. The government cancelled the concession under which the colony was established and the members have no special favors or privileges. The attention of United States Minister Ransom will be called to the condition of the colonists.

FIGHT AT A BRIDGE.

Another Successful Ambuscade by the Insurgent Forces.

Cincinnati, O., Jan. 27.—A special to the Commercial-Tribune from Key West says: News from Havana reports a hot battle at Las Manges, Pinar Del Rio province on Thursday between one of Col. San Martin's detachments and two troops of insurgents commanded by the brothers Delgado. The place has a Spanish garrison of 200 men. The Delgados marched to attack it and word was sent by Spaniards to San Martin for aid. The insurgents prepared a reception for San Martin's band. On the way the column had to cross a deep creek through a narrow defile. The Cubans undermined the bridge and hid on the roadside. As the Spaniards came upon the bridge it went down and precipitated 30 men into the water. The Cubans poured in a destructive fire, and then, shouting "Cuba libre," charged fiercely upon them with machetes. The fight was a hot and bloody one. Major Andres, the Spanish officer, was killed with two of his lieutenants. The troops suffered terribly, the Cubans hewing their way through them towards the colors, where a more desperate hand-to-hand encounter occurred, but the Cubans captured the flag and the Spaniards fled. The troops at Las Mangas hearing the firing, made a demonstration, and the Cubans, fearing to be caught between two fires retreated, carrying off their dead and wounded. The Spanish loss is reported at over 100, while the Cubans did not lose over 15 men.

At the palace in Havana the report was sent in from Las Mangas of a Spanish victory, but it added, "The Spanish troops left the field before the insurgents did."

TRAIN DYNAMITED.

Insurgents in Cuba Become Bolder Each Day.

Key West, Fla., Feb. 1.—On Friday one of Gen. Weyler's supply trains was dynamited on the railroad near Cieze, north of Cienfugos. Two bombs were exploded under the engine and four under the train, being fired by electricity as the train was crossing a trestle. The engine was blown apart and all the cars were splintered. They rolled over the trestle into the ditch, the fall completing what the dynamite had left undone. Out of the guard of 100 soldiers on it, 45 were instantly killed or terribly injured. The others surrendered as a force of 200 Cubans appeared. The train was looted, the insurgents securing a small field piece that Gen. Weyler had just ordered from Havana. After securing all the provisions and ammunition the cars were burned. The prisoners were released and the Cuban captain sent Weyler a box of sweetbread with a polite note. The captain of this Cuban band was an American named Burke, from Indiana.

GEN. AZCARRAGA

Likely to Be Weyler's Successor in Cuba.

London, Jan. 29.—A despatch from Madrid says that Lieutenant General Azcarraga, the Spanish minister for war, will, according to report, soon be appointed governor general of Cuba in succession of General Weyler, who, however, will retain command of the military forces of Spain in the island.

New York, Jan. 29.—Referring to the report that Spain is about to concede a home rule measure to the Cuban insurgents, Tomas Estrada Palma, of the Cuban junta, said to-day:

"Unconditional and absolute independence is all that Cuba will ever accept from the government of Spain. If she cannot have it she prefers extermination. It is scarcely worth while to discuss a home rule proposition. It has not been made, and if it should be it will receive no consideration at our hands."

CHRISTIANS MASSACRED.

Mussulmans Do Some Killing in Greece.

London, Feb. 1.—A dispatch to the Daily News from Athens, dated Sunday, says that serious news has been received from Heraklion. It is stated that ten Christians were murdered on Thursday while outside the gates of the city, and that armed bands of Mussulmans leave the town daily for the purpose of plundering and burning the villages.

Foreign warships are now arriving at Heraklion with a view of offering protection to the Christians there. The latter are arming and occupying strategic places for the purpose of preventing an influx of Mohammedans to the town, and a serious collision is feared in the near future.

The Plague.

London, Feb. 1.—A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Bombay says: Two more Europeans have died in the hospital, the results of the plague, which has also appeared among the convicts in the house of correction.

All men should read Thos. Slater's offer on page 3.

A WOMAN'S HAPPIEST TIME

In all a woman's life no happiness is comparable to the sweet and tender anticipation with which she looks forward to the coming of the first little visitor who shall call her "mother."

The time of expectant motherhood is associated with all that is best in woman's life, and with all the finest and fullest development of her nature. Only a heartless or unworthy woman can regard motherhood with indifference or carelessness. Yet it too often happens that the kindest and most loving women pass through this period with anxiety and solicitude, and unreasonable suffering, because of delicate health or some unnatural weakness of the special organism.

Many prospective mothers have found a wonderful re-enforcement of their powers by the timely use of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, which gives special health and elastic endurance to the organs concerned in motherhood, and creates a great fund of constitutional energy and strength for the mother to draw from during her time of trial.

Taken early during the expectant time, it makes the coming of baby comparatively easy; absolutely free from danger and almost free from pain.

It imparts that healthy tone to the nerve-centers which makes a mother cheerful and capable, and fortifies her against any after period of depression or prostration.

Its beneficent influence upon the mother affects the offspring both directly and indirectly. It promotes an abundant secretion of healthy nourishment for the baby and promotes its natural constitutional vigor and hardihood. It is a blessing both to mother and child.

No other medicine of the kind has ever accomplished so much for weak and suffering women. It is the only medicine for women devised by a regular graduated physician—a skilled and eminent specialist in the treatment of feminine difficulties. It was devised for this one special purpose of strengthening the weakness and curing the diseases peculiar to women.

Dr. Pierce has been for nearly thirty years chief consulting physician of the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, of Buffalo, N. Y. Any woman suffering from any of the delicate complaints pertaining to her sex, may consult him either personally or by letter with the utmost confidence, and will receive free of charge authoritative professional advice and explicit instructions for self-treatment without the necessity of the mortifying and generally useless "examinations" and "local treatment" which physicians usually insist upon.

Every woman who wishes to make the most of her womanhood and keep herself in the best physical condition ought to possess a copy of Dr. Pierce's great thousand-page illustrated book, "The People's Common Sense Medical Adviser." Its chapters on woman's physiology will be valuable beyond description to any woman. The book was formerly sold for $1.50 a copy; but a paper-bound copy will be sent absolutely free to any one sending 21 one-cent stamps to pay the cost of mailing only, to the World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N. Y. For a handsome cloth-bound, beautifully-stamped copy, send ten cents extra (31 stamps in all), to pay the additional expense.

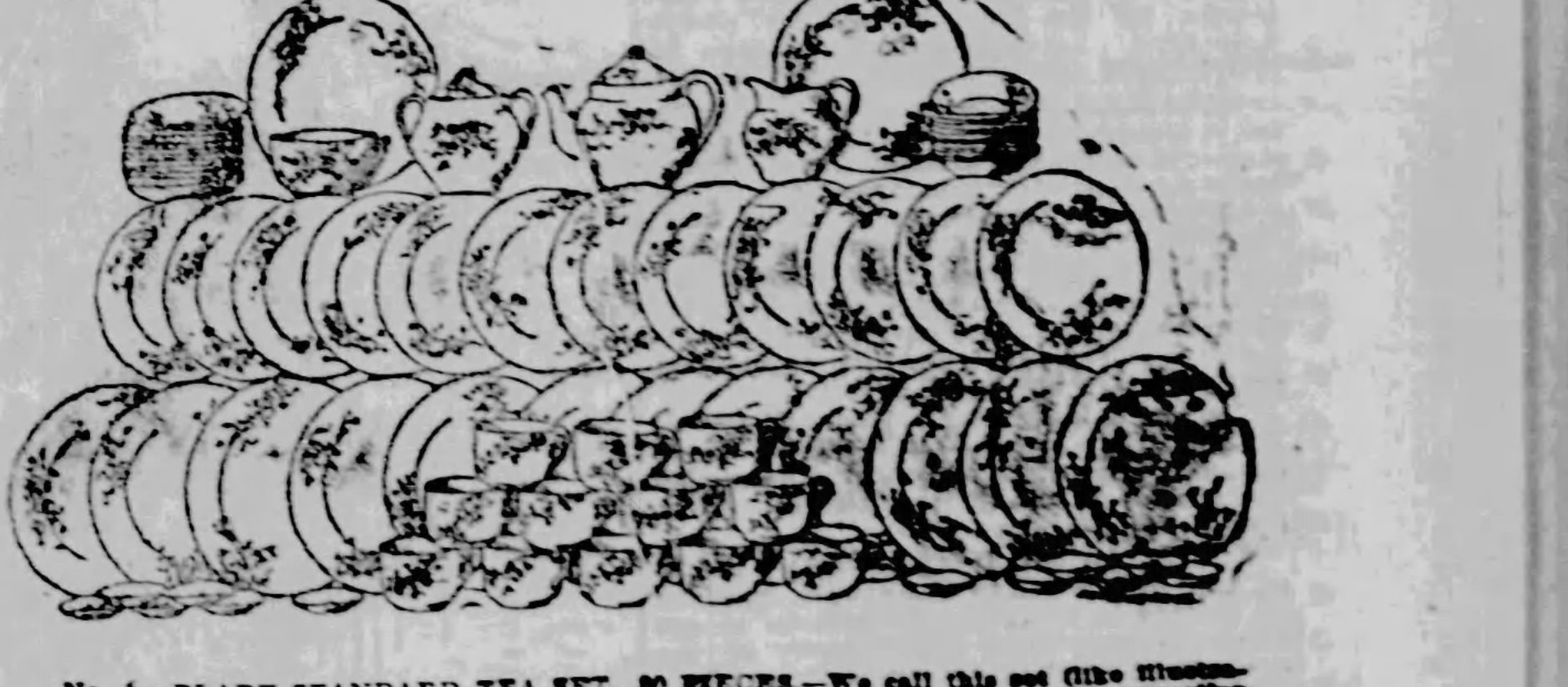
BLADE CHINA TEA SETS

—AND—

DINNER SETS.

Another Reduction—Later Designs.

Eighty, Fifty-six, One Hundred and Eight or Twenty-eight pieces handsomely decorated in several colors and gold band. These goods are made especially for THE BLADE, and we guarantee the highest quality of goods the best grade of workmanship, the latest and most stylish shaps of pieces as well as late and artistic design of decoration. The following illustration was reproduced from a photograph of our first 80-piece Tea Set. It gives a fair idea, but we now have later designs and shapes. Also, we give better material and color than formerly.



No. 1.—BLADE STANDARD TEA SET, 80 PIECES.—We call this set (like illustration above) Standard, because it is the same Tea Set we offered last year in connection with the Weekly Blade. We have sold thousands of sets of these goods, and in every case the recipient received more than expected. This year we expect to send out at the reduced prices over Five Thousand Sets. This set consists of 80 pieces, as follows: 12 breakfast plates, 12 tea plates, 12 tea cups, 12 saucers, 12 fruit dishes, 12 individual butter dishes, 2 round cake plates, 1 tea pot, 1 cover, 1 sugar bowl, 1 cover, 1 cream pitcher and 1 bowl.

The No. 1 Blade Standard Tea Set, 80 Pieces, and the Weekly Blade one year, only $5.00 (former price $7); or we will present one of these sets to any person sending us a club of seven subscribers and $7.00. The club of seven names to be sent all at one time.

No. 2.—BLADE TEA SET, 56 PIECES.—This set is exactly like the above illustrated 80-piece Tea Set, deducting 12 breakfast plates and 12 individual butter plates.

The No. 2 Tea Set, 56 Pieces, and the Weekly Blade, one year, only $3.75, (former price $5.50;) or we will present one of these Sets to any person sending us a club of Six Subscribers and $6. The club of six names to be sent all at one time.

No. 3.—BLADE DINNER SET, 108 PIECES.—We can describe this set by taking the above illustrated 80-piece Tea Set and adding the following: 12 soup plates, 1 9-inch dish, 1 12-inch dish, 2 8-inch bakers, 1 sauce boat, 2 pickle dishes, 1 covered dish (2 pieces), 2 casseroles, 1 comport, 1 covered butter dish (3 pieces), and 1 jug, making a total of 108 pieces.

The No. 3 Blade Dinner Set, 108 Pieces, and the Weekly Blade one year, only $8.25; or we will present one of these Sets to any person sending us a club of 16 Subscribers and $16. The club of 16 names to be sent all at one time.

No. 4.—BLADE CHINA SORTS, 28 PIECES, consisting of 12 soup plates, 1 9-inch dish, 1 12-inch dish, 2 8-inch bakers, 1 sauce boat, 2 pickle dishes, 1 covered dish (2 pieces), 2 casseroles, 1 comport, 1 covered butter dish (3 pieces), and 1 jug. We also offer this to those who may first purchase a No. 1 Standard Tea Set and afterwards desire to have a complete dinner set.

The No. 4 Blade China Sorts, 28 Pieces, and the Weekly Blade one year, only $4.50; or we will present one of these Assortments to any person sending us a club of eight subscribers and $8. The club of eight names all to be sent at one time.

NOTE.—These sets are decorated with a later pattern than those we sold two years ago, and consequently will not match with former purchases. We recommend our readers to buy, first, our No. 1 Blade Standard Set. Afterwards, if pleased with the goods, you may order our No. 4 set, the two combined making you a complete dinner set.

General Directions and Information.

ORDER BY NUMBER. The goods are carefully packed in box by manufacturer and shipped direct from the pottery to the purchaser upon our order. We shall order every package shipped by freight unless otherwise instructed. The receiver pays transportation. From 25 cents to $1, according to distance, will cover freight east of the Missouri River, while it may cost somewhere near $2 to pay freight to points beyond the Rockies. We do not advise shipping by express. Never before was so much value offered for so little money. Twenty years ago only the rich could afford such goods as we offer here. We guarantee these goods the best Stone China in the world, superior in enamel, color, style and finish to the best imported wares. We make no profit. We want and will have as a result of this offer, thousands of clubs. These articles will be useful in the house of every reader of The Blade, no matter whether rich or poor. Any person who will try it can raise a club of ten to twenty for The Blade in one day. Get about it before some one else canvasses the field. We are prepared to fill orders promptly.

THE BLADE, Toledo, O.

SHEET MUSIC

We have made arrangements with one of the largest music houses on this continent to furnish our readers with SIX PIECES, full size, complete and unabridged SHEET MUSIC for FIFTEEN CENTS.

This great sheet music offer is, without the least doubt, the greatest value for the least money ever before offered by any newspaper in the whole history of journalism. The quality of this sheet music is the very best. The composers' names are household words all over the continent. None but high price copyright pieces or most popular reprints. It is printed on regular sheet music paper, from new plates made from large, clear type, and is in every way first class and worthy of a place in your home.

15cts | 6-SIX-6 PIECES | 15cts

DON'T FORGET That the price you have to pay is only Fifteen Cents. That for this you get Six Pieces, not one. That the quality of this Sheet Music is the best. That the music is sent to any address, postpaid. That all the little details are up to the standard. That the vocal pieces have full piano accompaniments. That the instrumental pieces give the bass as well as melody. That this is sheet music equal to any published. ALSO, DON'T FORGET to make your selection at once, to send us the order, and to tell your friends about this great SHEET MUSIC OFFER.

Voice and Piano or Organ.

No.	Title	Composer
2.	Annie's Love Duet	Jos. Winters
4.	Esther's Lullaby. Slumber song	O. Mosher
6.	Thinking of Home and Mother	A. M. Cohen
8.	Ficasia. Waltz song	A. M. Cohen
10.	The Sweetest Song	L. Denza
12.	The Bridge. Words by Longfellow	Carew
14.	An Outcast. Character song	J. J. Fritz
16.	Ben Bolt, of "Trilby" fame	N. Kneass
19.	'E Dunno Where 'E Are. Comic	F. Eplett
21.	Keep the Horseshoe Over the Door	Skelly
23.	Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep	Knight
[illegible]	Lurlina, Do You Think of Me Now?	H. M. Estabrooke
27.	Ave Maria (Cavalleria Rusticana)	Mascagni
29.	Juanita. Ballad	T. G. May
[illegible]	Mission of a Rose, The. Song	F. H. Cowen
32.	Sweet Long Ago, The	H. M. Estabrooke
34.	By Normandie's Blue Hills	H. Trotere
[illegible]	For the Colors	H. L. Wilson
38.	True to the Last	S. Adams
40.	Love Ever Faithful	P. Douglas
42.	Come When Soft Twilight Falls	Schumann
44.	Beautiful Face of Jennie Knott	Heiseman
46.	That Word Was "Hope"	W. Nutting
48.	Little Boy Blue	H. H. Estabrooke
50.	Easter Eve. Sacred	C. Gounod
52.	Mother's Cry, A	P. Adriance
54.	Musical Dialogue. Duet	E. M. Heimund
56.	Precious Treasure	L. Weller
58.	When the Roses Are Blooming Again	J. P. Skelly
60.	Old Glory. National air	J. H. Woods
62.	Your Mother's Love for You	E. Koppi
64.	Vicar of Bray, The. Old English song	
66.	For You We Are Praying at Home	H. M. Estabrooke
68.	Lovely Little Nellie Dwyer	C. E. Casey
70.	Dear Heart, We're Growing Old	H. M. Estabrooke
72.	Killaline	H. K. Betts
74.	In Sweet September	H. Temple
76.	My Home by the Old Mill	M. J. O'Halloran
78.	Can You, Sweetheart, Keep a Secret?	H. M. Estabrooke
80.	See Those Living Pictures	R. Guth
82.	My Old Kentucky Home	S. C. Foster
84.	What Are the Wild Waves Saying? Duet	S. Glover
86.	When Winter Days Have Gone	J. H. Trayne
88.	Shall I Ever See My Mother's Face Again?	F. Adriance

Piano or Organ.

No.	Title	Composer
1.	Catherine Waltzes	D. W. Reilly
3.	Schubert's Serenade. Transcription	Fr. Liszt
5.	Silvery Waves. Variations	A. P. Wyman
7.	Visions of Light Waltz	S. G. Cook
9.	Our Little Agnes Waltz	G. M. Gregorie
11.	American Liberty March	S. G. Cook
13.	General Smith's March	J. T. Martin
15.	The Old Oaken Bucket. Variations	C. W. Durkee
17.	Impassioned Dream Waltzes	J. Rosas
18.	Boston Commandery March	T. M. Carter
20.	Frolic of the Frogs Waltz	J. J. Watson
22.	In Hoc Signo Vinces. K. T. March	H. M. Dow
24.	Over the Waves Waltzes	J. Rosas
26.	Village Parade Quickstep	T. F. Allen
28.	Sweet Long Ago. Transcription	C. D. Blake
31.	Song of the Voyager	I. J. Paderewski
33.	Corn Flower Waltzes	C. Coote, Jr.
35.	Black Hawk Waltz	M. E. Walsh
37.	Battle of Waterloo	G. Anderson
39.	Ruth, Esther and Marion Schottische	A. M. Cohen
41.	Crack 4 March	G. Ashton
43.	Leap Year Schottische	O. Kahn
45.	March Winds Galop	D. Mansfield
47.	Cleveland's Second Term March	L. C. Noel
49.	Full of Ginger March	W. Nutting
51.	Blue Bird Echo Waltz	M. Morrison
53.	Greeting of Spring	G. Schultze
55.	Memorial Day March	L. Hewitt
57.	Twilight Echoes	F. A. Jewell
59.	Wedding March	Mendelssohn
61.	Morning Star Waltz	F. E. Zahn
63.	McKinley & Hobart March	J. W. Turner
65.	Bells of Corneville. Potpourri	L. C. Kling
67.	Bryan & Sewall March	L. C. Noel
69.	Flirting in the Starlight Waltz	A. de Lasaide
71.	Crystal Dew Waltz	C. W. Durkee
73.	Storm Mazurka	W. T. Keefer
75.	Scherzettino, op. 48	A. Guilmant
77.	Fifth Nocturne	J. Leybach
79.	Please Do Waltz	C. W. Durkee
81.	Coming from the Races Galop	J. W. Wheeler
83.	Orvetta Waltz	E. B. Spencer
85.	Winsome Grace. Morceau	T. H. Howe
87.	National Anthems of Eight Great Nations	

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WASHINGTON.

WILSON LAW DEFICIT.

Reason for an Extra Session of Congress.

Washington, Feb. 1.—If anybody doubted the wisdom of President-elect McKinley in deciding that a special session of the new Congress should be held as soon as practicable after his inauguration, that doubt has disappeared upon the examination of the treasury department figures just made public, showing the astonishing failure of the present tariff law to accomplish what was promised for it by its framers.

If there was anything which the Democrats who enacted it delighted most especially in repeating it was the phrase: "Our tariff law will do what your McKinley law could not do; it will produce sufficient revenue to meet running expenses." If there is anything that these same gentlemen now do not like to hear, it is a reference to those pledges and boasts, for the statements were made boastfully. Their revenue law began by producing a monthly deficit of from five to ten million dollars but they apologized for it month by month and promised that it would do better after it had adjusted itself to business conditions and business conditions had adjusted themselves to it. But the twenty-nine months of adjustment have failed to bring about the result which they promised and the close of these weary months shows a deficit practically as large as when the experiment of the Democratic tariff began.

Twenty-nine months of Democratic tariff under the Wilson law have made a record which will probably remain with the people of the United States of the present generation.

A tariff law which can produce a deficit of one hundred and twenty-six millions of dollars in twenty-nine months is not likely to pass from the memory of the average student of national affairs. This will be especially true, however, if he compares the workings of the Democratic tariff law during its existence with those of the McKinley law during a corresponding period of its existence.

The Figures.

The following figures show the total receipts and expenditures of the government during the first twenty-nine months of the Wilson tariff law as compared with those of the first twenty-nine months of the McKinley law.

McKinley law, receipts first 29 months	$885,964,890.42
Wilson law, receipts first 29 months	738,987,775.80
Difference in favor of McKinley law	$146,977,114.62
McKinley law, receipts first 29 months	$885,964,890.42
McKinley law, expenditures first 29 months	862,938,702.26
Surplus	$ 23,026,188.16
Wilson law, receipts first 29 months	$738,987,775.80
Wilson law, expenditures first 29 months	865,864,991.82
Deficit	$126,877,216.02
McKinley law, first 29 months, surplus	$ 23,026,118.16
Wilson law, first 29 months, deficit	126,877,216.02

DEBT STATEMENT.

Some Interesting Figures Regarding Uncle Sam's Treasury.

Washington, Feb. 2.—The statement of the public debt shows the debt, less cash in the treasury Jan. 31, to have been $1,007,008,317, an increase for the month of $14,078,735. This increase is accounted for by a decrease of nearly $13,000,000 in the cash on hand. The decrease in cash is the result of the redemption of $9,586,000 in matured Pacific railroad bonds which will be held as a debt against the company, and the interest payments for the month, which amounted to $6,764,036. The debt proper, independent of the cash on hand, was increased during the month by $2,120,776, which is chargeable to the increase in the amount of national bank notes outstanding. The debt is classified as follows:

Interest bearing debt, $847,364,750; debt on which interest has ceased since maturity, $1,382,930; debt bearing no interest, $374,623,057; total $1,223,370,737. This, however, does not include $595,975,573 in certificates and treasury notes outstanding which are offset by an equal amount of cash in the treasury. The cash is classified as follows:

Gold, $182,387,121; silver, $513,736,348; paper, $144,492,197; bonds, disbursing officers' balances, etc., $17,938,241. Total, $858,553,910, against which there are demand liabilities outstanding amounting to $643,191,490, which leaves a net cash balance in the treasury of $215,362,420.

JANUARY'S DEFICIT.

Statement of Government Receipts and Expenditures.

Washington, Feb. 2.—The comparative statement of the government receipts and expenditures shows the total receipts during January to have been $24,316,994, and the expenditures $30,269,389. This leaves a deficit for the month of $5,892,895, and for the seven months of the present fiscal year a deficit of $43,854,792. The deficit for the same seven months of last year was $18,686,377. The receipts from customs during the last month amounted to $11,276,874, a falling off of over $5,100,000 as compared with January, 1896. There was also a slight falling off in the receipts from internal revenue.

THE TREATY.

President Would Veto It in the Present Form.

Washington, Feb. 2.—It may be stated on the authority of Senator Palmer, of Illinois, that if the conference report on the immigration bill, which was agreed to by the House on Friday, is also agreed to by the Senate, the bill will be vetoed by Mr. Cleveland.

The President holds that the measure as agreed to by the House is vicious and inhuman legislation which has no place on the statute books of this country. It is not understood that he objects to the general features of the bill, but he holds that a husband and wife should not be separated by any legislative enactment, and that, as Congressman Dolliver, of Iowa, put it, "it is of vastly more importance that a man have the association of his wife than of his grandfather."

CONGRESS THIS WEEK.

What May Be Expected From the Statesmen.

Washington, Feb. 1.—The time of the House this week will probably be devoted almost entirely to the consideration of appropriations of which the consular and diplomatic and the District of Columbia are on the calendar. The fortifications and sundry civil bill also will be ready before the end of the week. It is possible that the rules committee will decide to give the House a chance to vote this week on the international monetary convention bill which passed the Senate last Friday. The advocates of the pooling bill also are pressing for its consideration and the petition presented to Speaker Reed for consideration of public building bills remains as yet unacted upon. Any of these matters which have been held in abeyance may be brought up if time allows and the committee is willing.

Senate.

The week in the Senate will open with further discussion of the Nicaragua canal bill. It is expected that this bill will be disposed of in some manner during the first half of the week. The bankruptcy bill has an advantage in being made a special order and an effort will be made to have it given the right of way after the Nicaragua bill is disposed of. Some Senators hope to supplant this bill with the subject of the Hawaiian cable and others with the Pacific railroad commission bill. It appears most possible, however, that the bankruptcy bill will be given first place, barring appropriation bills and conference reports.

Senator Lodge expects to secure consideration of the conference report on the immigration bill. Senator Gibson will antagonize this report, and the friends of the bill count upon the necessity of spending considerable time on it.

The arbitration treaty will be reported at the first executive session, and an early day asked for its discussion. It is likely that it will come up for consideration during the week.

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report.

Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

HON. JAMES WILSON.

James Wilson, who is to be secretary of agriculture in President McKinley's cabinet, was born in the parish of Girvan, Ayrshire, Scotland, in 1840, emigrating to America with his parents when a small boy. The first settlement of the family was in Connecticut, from which state they removed to Iowa in the '50s, in company with Governor Buckingham and other distinguished people of the former state. For many years Mr. Wilson was a teacher in the country schools near Old Buckingham and West Union, and so poor was he at that time that even in the coldest weather he was compelled to go barefooted. By strict economy he accumulated money with which to purchase a portion of the magnificent farm of 1,200 acres which he now owns in Tama county. This place may well be termed the "garden spot" of Iowa, for there is probably not another farm in the state so well improved in all respects. For many years he was a breeder of fancy cattle, and in that business he has made a competence. His home life has been simple, yet his family have enjoyed many privileges not accorded the ordinary farmer's family. Two of his sons, Ward W. and Peter, now manage the big farm.

Mr. Wilson was a member of the Twelfth, Thirteenth and Fourteenth General Assemblies of Iowa, has been state railroad commissioner, president of the state Temperance Alliance, and has held many other important public offices in the state. In 1874 he was elected to the United States Congress from the Fifth Iowa district, and was returned to the House in 1876. In 1882 he was again a candidate, defeating the famous Ben T. Fredericks by a majority of 23 votes. His election was at once contested, but the matter was not considered in the House until the last day of the term in 1885 when he stepped down and allowed Mr. Fredericks to claim the seat, upon the condition that the House should pass the bill, to place Gen. U. S. Grant upon the retired list. This bill could not be passed until the contest was disposed of, which was done during the last 15 minutes of the session.

Mr. Wilson has also been engaged in the newspaper business, becoming editor of the Traer Clipper in 1881, his partner in the business being James Morrison, now of Washington, D. C. He managed the paper and farm at the same time, but soon sold his newspaper business, which had become very profitable. As a student and scholar Mr. Wilson ranked among the best in the Middle West. For several years he has been professor of agriculture in the State School at Ames, and in connection with his other duties has edited a farm department for the newspapers that has been published in all the counties of the state. Mr. Wilson adheres to the tenets of the Presbyterian church and is prominent in Masonic circles in the state.

TO BE RATIFIED.

The Arbitration Treaty Favorably Acted On in Committee.

Washington, Jan. 30.—The Senate committee on foreign relations to-day resumed consideration of the arbitration treaty between the United States and Great Britain with the determination to finish it before the committee adjourned. They finally agreed to report favorably on the treaty with amendments.

The Changes.

Washington, Jan. 30.—The committee was in session for three hours, at the conclusion of which time it adjourned, after having agreed by an almost unanimous vote to recommend the ratification of the treaty with amendments. All but two of these amendments are verbal. One of the two which strikes out the clause providing for the selection of King Oscar of Sweden and Norway as umpire, leaving it to the two powers to select an umpire when one is considered necessary.

The other important amendment is an addition to article one of the treaty and reads as follows: "No question which affects the foreign or domestic policy of either of the contracting parties or the relations of either with any other state or power, by treaty or otherwise, shall be subject to arbitration under this treaty except by special agreement."

This agreement was agreed to by the unanimous vote of the committee. The amendment eliminating the umpire clause was agreed to by a vote of 9 to 1. The vote in opposition to striking out the King Oscar clause is understood to have been cast by Senator Gray, of Delaware.

JAPANESE WAGE-RATE.

It is Becoming Higher With Each Year.

Washington, Jan. 30.—The competition of Japanese cheap labor, which has been so much dreaded by the American workman, is not likely longer to be a menace, if wages in Japan continue to increase in the extraordinary degree they have maintained since the China-Japanese war. United States Consul Connelly at Hiogo has supplied the state department with tables showing the wages of various classes of labor, more or less skilled, for 1894, '95 and '96 that illustrate this wonderful increase in certain lines. Agricultural laborers, males and females, have had their wages advanced in that period of time from 10 yen per day to 25 yen; weavers, from 15 to 35 yen; tailors from 60 to 120 yen; paper makers from 18 to 40 yen; fishermen, from 20 to 40 yen; blacksmiths from 45 to 85 yen, and so on through many kinds of labor.

The Japanese manufacturers also appear to be having their labor troubles, which they are endeavoring to overcome in unique fashion, as shown by the consul's report, based on newspaper accounts. The great activity in the cotton spinning industry has led to a demand for labor in excess of the supply.

One great mill raised wages and thus enticed away labor from its competitors. The latter replied by a boycott against the offending mill and then sought forcibly to prevent the desertion of their operatives. Pickets were located at stations and along the river routes, but notwithstanding the boycotted mill continues to draw away the laborers who manage to make their escape.

SEVERAL THOUSANDS

That Will Go Into the Ohio Treasury.

Washington, Feb. 1.—In the United States supreme court to-day the Ohio tax cases were decided in favor of the state. The opinion was delivered by Chief Justice Fuller on behalf of the majority of the court. Justices Field, Harlan, Brown and White dissented.

There were ten of these cases brought by the officers of the Adams, American and United States express companies. They were suits in equity to enjoin the assessment and collection of taxes under the acts of the General Assembly of the state of Ohio, passed April 27, 1893, and May 10, 1894, for the taxation of express, telegraph, and telephone companies, on the ground that the acts were in contravention of the constitutions of the state of Ohio and of the United States. The cases cover the assessments made against the Adams Express Company for the years 1893, 1894 and 1895, and the assessments against the United States Epress Company and the American Express Company for the years 1894 and 1895. The assessments against these two companies for 1893 are also involved in the decision of the cases.

The cases were appealed by the express companies from the decision of the circuit court for the southern district of Ohio, which was favorable to the state.

The court also decided the tax case of the Western Union Telegraph Company against the state of Indiana involving similar questions to those settled in the Ohio case. The state won in this case also.

THE VENEZUELAN TREATY

Was Signed at Washington Tuesday Afternoon.

Washington, Feb. 2.—The treaty of arbitration between Great Britain and Venezuela will be signed at 5 o'clock this afternoon.

The delay in completing the treaty was caused by the difficulty in making up the personnel of the arbitral commission, not so much from objections to persons nominated by either side as from the trouble experienced in arranging the tribunal so as to interfere as little as possible with the important routine work of the supreme courts of the United States and Great Britain, from which bodies four of the arbitrators are drawn.

Notice, however, was received by cable this morning from London that the privy council had finally confirmed the selections made. The four arbitrators, it is understood, will be Chief Justice Fuller and Justice Brewer, of the United States Supreme Court, and Lord Herschell and Sir Richard Henn Collins Knight, justices of her majesty's supreme court of judicature. The fifth arbitrator in case of need will be named by King Oscar.

By the terms of the treaty the agents of the two governments, Great Britain and Venezuela, must deliver the complete cases at Paris, where the arbitration tribunal will meet, within eight months of the ratification of the treaty, with three months additional allowed for the submission of the counter cases, so that the entire arbitration probably will occupy a year and a half.

THREE FRIENDS A PIRATE.

Must Answer to This Charge in Court.

Washington, Feb. 2.—Attorney General Harmon has given instructions to the United States attorney general at Jacksonville, Fla., to at once proceed against the filibuster Three Friends under section 3,927 revised statutes for engaging in an act of piracy.

This action is taken in view of the recent decision of Judge Locke, of Jacksonville, which held in effect that the Cuban insurgents were not a people, state, district or colony within the meaning of the revised statutes, under which the libel was brought. In other words, the expedition in which she was engaged was not a political one.

It is the understanding of the department that the Three Friends some weeks ago, while on a filibustering expedition carrying arms and a mounted cannon was pursued by a Spanish vessel, and in making her escape fired one or more shots at her pursuers. The Three Friends on the occasion named was either engaged on a political expedition against a friendly power, or on a piratical one. Her arms and mounted cannon furnish evidence that her mission was not a peaceful one, but quite the contrary.

In any event the attorney general has decided to give Judge Locke another opportunity of deciding just what the character of the Three Friends expedition was. No action is now contemplated against the officers and crew of the vessel.

KENTUCKY SENATOR.

Report That Bradley Will Make an Appointment.

Washington, Feb. 2.—It is reported at the capitol to-day, on what is believed to be good authority, that Governor Bradley, of Kentucky, has decided to appoint Mr. Yerkes as Senator from that state upon the retirement of Senator Blackburn in March, and not to call the legislature in extra session. He takes the position, it is said, that the appointment will be sustained by the Senate because the legislature will not be in session when the vacancy occurs.

Mrs. Cleveland Saw Lil.

Washington, Feb. 2.—Ex-Queen Liliuokalani paid a visit to Mrs. Cleveland yesterday afternoon. There was no ceremony about the meeting and it was stated that the ex-Queen called simply to pay her respects to Mrs. Cleveland.

ALTGELD ARRAIGNED

For His Unfounded Charges of Election Frauds.

Chicago, Jan. 29.—Judge O. N. Carter, head of the Chicago election commission, in a letter addressed to ex-Governor John P. Altgeld, of Illinois, denies his sweeping charges of fraud in the recent election, especially as regards Chicago, and calls upon him to produce his proofs, promising to thoroughly investigate them.

The charges were made in a speech delivered by Mr. Altgeld at a reception given for him at the Tremont House last Saturday night. He asserted that the increased Republican vote was greatly in excess of what the increase in population justified, and said the increase of 243,000 votes in Illinois indicated an increase of 1,200,000 in the population of the state during the four years from 1892 to 1896, which he said clearly was untrue.

Judge Carter, after quoting this statement, writes that while Mr. Altgeld does not refer particularly to Chicago, inasmuch as 108,000 of the increased vote in the state came from Chicago, it is fair to assume that he charged fraudulent voting in the city as well as in other parts of the state.

The judge writes that he has had a careful examination made of the returns in the election commissioners' office since reading Mr. Altgeld's speech, and he compares the votes of 1892, 1894 and 1896 and writes that the increase of 1896 over 1894 is more easily accounted for than the increase of 1894 over 1892, during both of which years the county judge and two of the three election commissioners were Democrats.

If there were any wholesale frauds against the Democrats, Judge Carter writes they were in a position to prevent it, and he asserts he never heard any specific charges of fraud from any of the Democratic or Populist election commissioners, judges or clerks.

Regarding the judge's letter, ex-Governor Altgeld says: "I did most assuredly include Chicago in my remarks, for I am firmly persuaded that frauds of the most gigantic character were committed in this city at the last election. Judge Carter's statements do not meet my charges, and neither he nor any other man can explain the glaring discrepancy between the increase in the vote and population during the period referred to. It tells the whole story itself.

"At first I was disposed to accept the result of the election in good faith, but as I looked more and more into the returns I was sorrowfully and to my regret [illegible] fraud had been committed, and I have forced to the conclusion that a gigantic had no reason to change my mind since. I will, of course, read Judge Carter's letter carefully, and it may be I will have something to say on the matter."

THE PENNSYLVANIA'S PRESIDENT.

Death Claimed George B. Roberts Saturday.

Philadelphia, Pa., [illegible] it is somewhat remarkable fact that the presidents of the Pennsylvania railroad company die in the harness, and the death of George B. Roberts Saturday afternoon was in keeping with this idea. True it is that Col. Tom Scott resigned some time before his death, but it was understood that should he recover his health that he would again resume the reins.

When Col. Scott retired in June, 1880, George B. Roberts, then vice-president, took charge of the road. It has prospered under his guidance. Roberts was always an invalid, but his serious illness dates from last summer. He visited the Eastern states and there partook of clam chowder. It disagreed with him, and he never seemed to recover from the attack of indigestion.

Early last fall Mr. Roberts was compelled to take to his bed, and he failed rapidly, the disease finally attacking his brain and producing paralysis.

The question of the succession is one that will require some consideration by the directors. So far as known Frank Thompson, the first vice-president, will be chosen president.

Mr. Roberts commenced his railroad career with an engineering corps when about 16 years of age as a rodman. The road he then was at work on is now part of the Pennsylvania system.

He worked his way up and served the Pennsylvania in various capacities, filling the positions of fourth, third, second and first vice-presidents, and in 1880 succeeding Col. Thomas Scott as president, which position he has since held.

OUR ARBITRATORS.

The Supreme Court Names Justices Fuller and Brewer.

New York, Jan. 28.—A dispatch to the World from Washington says:

Melville W. Fuller, chief justice of the United States Supreme Court, and David W. Brewer, associate justice, have been nominated as commissioners to serve on the arbitral tribunal appointed to determine the boundary line between Venezuela and British Guiana.

The Supreme Court at a formal meeting has officially agreed upon these selections. The nomination of Chief Justice Fuller was made subject to the approval of Venezuela, as is provided by an amendment to the original agreement. President Crespo and his cabinet have signified their acceptance of Mr. Fuller.

During the final work on the treaty under which arbitration will be conducted, it was decided to insert the names of the commissioners in order that the work of expediting organization and the transaction of business be hastened.

CLUMSY FORGERY.

That Letter About Inaugural Ball Expense Was Not McKinley's.

Cleveland, O., Feb. 1.—A special from Canton says the letter purporting to have been written by President-elect McKinley, advising that the inauguration ball be abandoned and the funds for that purpose be devoted to charity, is a clumsy forgery. The letter is believed to have been concocted in Washington, but its purpose is not clear, for the reason that no fund is raised for the inauguration ball. An investigation is being quietly conducted by some of Mr. McKinley's friends, and if the forger is found, he will be exposed, if not punished.

I CURE FITS

When I say I cure I do not mean merely to stop them for a time and then have them return again. I mean a radical cure. I have made the disease of FITS, EPILEPSY or FALLING SICKNESS a life-long study. I warrant my remedy to cure the worst cases. Because others have failed is no reason for not now receiving a cure. Send at once for a treatise and a Free Bottle of my infallible remedy. Give Express and Postoffice address.

Prof. W. H. PEEKE, F. D., 4 Cedar St., New York

ARBITRATION TREATY.

Changes Made Will Never Be Accepted by Either Executive.

New York, Feb. 1.—A special to the Herald from Washington says: The Anglo-America arbitration treaty as amended by the Senate committee on foreign relations is highly objectionable to the administration.

If the treaty in its present amended shape is ratified by the Senate, it will not be proclaimed during the present administration, or during Lord Salisbury's incumbency of office in England. Such at least is the opinion of leading members of the administration who recognize that Lord Salisbury has already made considerable political capital for himself out of the fact that he was able to successfully negotiate a treaty with the Cleveland administration.

The amendments will be opposed by the administration not only because they destroy the vital parts of the proposed treaty, but because the state department is morally certain that if the treaty goes to Great Britain in the present amended form it will be "turned down," and a long time may elapse before the United States will ever again have the opportunity of securing peace on such easy terms.

It is not definitely known whether Secretary Olney and Sir Julian Pauncefote have conferred regarding the committee amendments, but your correspondent has positive knowledge that the administration officials have abandoned all hope of the acceptance of the treaty by Great Britain if ratified in its amended form.

Your correspondent has also learned of another important amendment to the treaty that did not leak out until Sunday morning. The whole of article 7 was stricken out, which has the effect of still further limiting the operations of the treaty. This article provides "objections to the jurisdiction of an arbitral tribunal constitution under this treaty shall not be taken except as provided in this article.

"If, before the close of the hearing of a claim submitted to an arbitral tribunal constituted under article 3 or article 5, either of the high contracting parties shall move such tribunal to decide and thereupon it shall decide, that the determination of such claim necessarily involves the decision of a disputed question of principle of grave general importance, affecting the national rights of such party as distinguished from the private rights, whereof it is merely the international representative, the jurisdiction of such arbitral tribunal over such claim shall cease, and the same shall be dealt with by arbitration under article 6."

HER BUST IN MARBLE.

Sculptor Bracony Will Make a Model of Mrs. McKinley.

Chicago, Feb. 2.—Mrs. William McKinley is apparently as interested in the bust of herself, which the French sculptor, Leopold Bracony, is to carve in marble, as she is in the much discussed inauguration gown. The plaster shell of the model was received yesterday afternoon at Mr. Bracony's studio in North State street, but the work of completion will consume several months.

It was the expressed desire of Mrs. McKinley to see the plaster cast while in Chicago, but Mr. Bracony is carrying his right arm in a sling, and will, consequently, be unable to fulfill the wishes of his distinguished model.

Mr. Bracony spent two weeks in Canton, doing the preliminary modeling. He returned to Chicago a week ago Sunday a victim of the cold wave, barely escaping the loss of his hand from freezing. So he was obliged to call on Mrs. McKinley a few days ago and postpone indefinitely a view of even the plaster bust.

It was given out yesterday that Mrs. McKinley expects to leave for home Thursday. She will be accompanied by her sister, Mr. Barber and Capt. Hiestand, who came with her to Chicago. The same quiet seclusion which has characterized her sojourn will be maintained until the end. Aside from a visit to the father of her hostess, Mrs. McWilliams, there will be no social calls. The usual drive was indulged in yesterday afternoon, and a few informal callers received. There has not been a single shopping tour made by Mrs. McKinley, all the purchases having been made by proxy through Mrs. McWilliams.

STATE HOUSE BURNED.

Fire Destroyed Pennsylvania's Old-Time Building.

Harrisburg, Pa., Feb. 2.—Fire broke out at 1 o'clock in the Senate wing of the state capitol and the building is doomed, as the fire department is unable to control the flames.

The fire quickly communicated to the House side and is now, at 1:35, eating its way along the roof. There seems to be no possible way of saving the building. The House was in session when the fire was discovered, and it quickly adjourned. The members saw the probabilities of the fire spreading and they began to remove their belongings. The smoke soon drove them from the building and little was gotten out.

The dome has just fallen. Before it fell one patriotic citizen crawled through the mass of flames and hauled down the flag. He was loudly cheered. Several men were slightly injured by timbers.

2 P. M.—The entire interior of the House is in flames. The water power is still very weak and every effort is now being made to confine the flames to the legislative halls.

2:40 P. M.—The fire will be confined to the capitol building. The entire structure is now in flames in the interior and both roofs have fallen in and soon the great pillars at the main entrance will fall. The walls are now cracking and crumbling.

The loss is placed at $1,000,000; insurance $400,000. The loss to valuable records is great. They can never be replaced.

CLEVELAND'S TALK TO M. D.'S.

President Made Merry at a Meeting of Doctors.

New York, Jan. 30.—The occasion of the celebration of the semi-centennial of the New York Academy of Medicine at Carnegie Hall last night was made auspicious by the presence of President Cleveland, who arrived in this city early in the evening. The President was invited to attend the celebration by Dr. Joseph D. Bryant, who is president of the Academy of Medicine and also Mr. Cleveland's private physician. Carnegie Hall was taxed beyond its capacity by the doctors and their guests long before the exercises of the evening were begun. On the stage and in the audience were many leading physicians from all over the United States.

The feature of the entertainment was of course the address of Mr. Cleveland, which excited considerable merriment and good feeling. Other addresses were made by President Bryant, Dr. Samuel S. Purple, of New York, and Dr. Lewis A. Sayre.

Following the exercises at Carnegie Hall the President held a brief reception at the Academy of Medicine. It was 10:40 o'clock when he arrived at the academy in a carriage, accompanied by Dr. and Mrs. Bryant and Secretary Lamont. The President had been preceded by many members of the academy and their wives. After a few minutes of handshaking, the President, accompanied by Mr. Lamont and the reception committee, proceeded to the Desbrosses street ferry, crossing which they took the midnight train for Washington.

GEN. ANSON G. M'COOK.

Gossip Says He May Be Secretary to the President.

Canton, O., Feb. 2.—It is very probable that Gen. Anson G. McCook, present chamberlain of New York city, will be tendered the position of secretary to the President. Major McKinley is very desirous to have some such man as Gen. McCook fill the position, which has been advanced in dignity almost equal to a cabinet portfolio. The formal tender has not been made, but matters are shaping themselves to that end.

Every man should read the offer of Thos. Slater on page 3 of this paper.

Radway's Pills

Purely vegetable, mild and reliable. For the cure of all disorders of the Stomach, Liver, Bowels, Kidneys, Bladder, Female Irregularities, Sick Headache, Biliousness, Constipation, Piles, one of Radway's Pills is sufficient to keep the bowels regular and secure PERFECT DIGESTION, and one of Radway's Pills will accomplish a better purpose than six of the ordinary drastic pills. A few doses will prove the correctness of this statement. Sold by Druggists, 25c a box, or by mail. RADWAY & CO., New York.

PRISON LABOR.

Some Valuable Statistics Concerning Its Volume and Effects.

Columbus, O., Feb. 1.—The following statistics, in regard to the prison labor of the United States, has been prepared by Hon. William Ruehrwein, commissioner of labor statistics, and will be found to contain many points of interest:

The total number of convicts in penal institutions in the various states in 1885 was 41,887. In 1895 the number rose to 54,244. Of the number imprisoned in 1885, 1,967 were females. The number of females imprisoned in 1895 was 1,988, an increase of only 21. In 1885 the number engaged in productive labor was 30,853, being 73.7 per cent. of the total number of convicts at that time, while in 1895 the number engaged in productive labor was 38,415, or 70.8 per cent. of the total number of convicts. While there was thus a decrease in the proportion of convicts employed in productive labor, it will be seen that there was also a decrease in the proportion of those engaged in prison duties, for in 1885 the total so engaged was 8,391, or 20 per cent. of the total number of convicts, while in 1895 there were 8,804 so engaged, being 16.2 per cent. of the whole number. An increase in the proportion of the idle and the sick in the ten years is observed. In 1885 the number was 2,643, or 6.3 per cent. of the whole, while in 1895 the number of idle and sick was 7,025, being 12 per cent. of the whole.

An increase of the amount of work done in penal institutions during 1895 has occurred in the following states and territories: Alabama, Connecticut, Florida, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin.

A decrease occurs in the following-named states and territories: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee and West Virginia.

The total value of goods produced or work done in the United States for the various states and territories in all the state prisons and penitentiaries for 1895 was $19,042,472.23. This sum represents the value of the goods after the materials have been manipulated by the convicts. It does not represent the value of materials on which work has been bestowed, but the work itself.

MICHIGAN LUMBER.

Official Statement of Lumber and Shingles Made in 1896.

Saginaw, Mich., Jan. 30.—Ed Cowles, lumber statistician, has compiled a statement showing the Michigan lumber and shingle output in 1896.

The statement shows the state produced 2,166,252,982 feet of lumber and 941,527,200 shingles. At the close of the year there was in the hands of manufacturers 1,140,316,185 feet of lumber and 208,316,600 shingles.

The Michigan output last year as compared with 1895 shows a decrease of 565,000,000 feet and a decrease of 1,565,000,000 feet as compared with the output of 1892. At the close of the manufacturing season there is on hand only 12,000,000 feet less than the quantity on hand at the close of 1895, although there was a falling off in production, as stated, of nearly 600,000,000 feet. These figures illustrate the condition of the lumber trade last year.

Markets and Crops.

JANUARY TRADE.

There Has Been a Steady Increase in Business.

New York, Jan. 30.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review of trade says:

January has been a month of disappointment, but of real gain. Nearly everybody had promised himself a land of milk and honey after New Years and the slow progress looks like standing still to men in such a state of mind. Moreover, there are multitudes throughout the country who have been taking large ventures in advance of or apart from their regular business, because they expected a rise in prices. But prices fail as to bringing them profit. Wheat has declined severely; cotton has scarcely risen enough to pay brokerage; wool holds steady in spite of enormous buying; woolen goods hardly change in price, iron and its products decline; leather is sluggish; hides are lower; for some shoe manufacturers accept a shade lower prices, the average of railroad stocks is slightly lower than it was Dec. 31, and the advance in trust stocks has been small. To traders in such properties the month has been disappointing. Yet, during the past week the record shows that ten iron works have started, and only two have stopped, 13 woolen works have started, and nine more are about ready to start, while three have stopped. Similar things are seen in other industries and the additional establishments are not starting without some increase in orders received.

The decline in wheat was over 6 cents in spite of an official report of yield far below estimates generally accepted, and reflects the perception of the error of that report, and also the influence of enormous exports of corn instead of wheat—80,000,000 bu. in seven months. When two bushels of corn can be had for less than one bushel of wheat, it is largely preferred in European markets, and in January 7,851,127 bushels of corn have gone abroad from Atlantic ports against 5,306,349 last year, while Atlantic exports of wheat and flour have been 6,535,154 bushels, against 8,403,765 last year. As the great crop of corn prevents much advance in its price, its outgo affects the demand for wheat and a heavy liquidation of speculation has occurred, with the price of corn scarcely changing. Cotton looks less attractive to traders because American millers are laboring over plans to reduce the great surplus of goods and prices of many have declined. Takings of Northern spinners have been in five months 44,000 bales less than last year, and 423,000 bales less than in 1894-95.

Sales of wool in January have never been surpassed in that month, nor in any other month except last November and July of 1892. In the earlier years sudden demand for consumption was the cause. But the increase in orders for woolen goods was small in November and has been small in January compared with the purchases on anticipated possible duties. The price has remained about steady.

Iron and steel show little gain, production having increased so heavily and the gradual enlargement of demand for finished products has not overtaken that increase. Lower prices result for Bessemer pig, grey forge and for Southern iron at Chicago, for angles and for cut nails, and the average of all quotations is the lowest since early last year. For sheets there is active demand and better also for bars, on account of much car building. Tin and copper are a shade stronger, but competition causes sales of tin plates 10 to 15 cents below the agreed price.

Sharp Falling Off in the Number of Failures.

New York, Jan. 30.—Bradstreet's says:

There has been a falling off in general trade owing to the heavy fall of snow and cold weather. There is a moderate increase in distribution of heavy winter goods, but commercial travelers very generally report buyers even more conservative than earlier in the month, and that wholesale trading in January except in lines specified is smaller than for years. Mercantile collections are interrupted, and the improvement looked for in iron and steel is not in sight.

The most favorable feature of the business week is the sudden and sharp falling off in the total number of business failures in the United States, the aggregate being 326, as compared with 429 last week and a falling off of 67 compared with the corresponding week of 1896. The total number of business failures throughout the Canadian Dominion this week is 56. Last week the total was 57 and last year it was 63.

INDIA WHEAT.

Light Rains Have Helped the Spring Crops.

London, Feb. 1.—The official weekly bulletin regarding the situation in India show that light rains have been general throughout the provinces, Bombay and Madras alone excepted. Spring crops have improved and prices for all products are slightly lower.

REVIEW OF WEEK'S BUSINESS.

OFFICE OF THE TOLEDO BLADE,
Toledo, O., Feb. 2, 1897.

The following shows changes in government bonds during the past week:

	Feb. 2.	Jan. 26.
U. S. 4's (new), coupons	122¾	122⅛
U. S. 4's (new), registered	122⅜	121⅛
U. S. 5's, coupons	113¾	114⅛
U. S. 5's, registered	113⅜	113⅛
U. S. 4's, coupons	112¼	112¼
U. S. 4's, registered	111¼	111⅛
U. S. 2's, registered	95½	96
Pacific 6's of '98	103½	103½

Condition of the Grain Trade at the Close To-Day.

Wheat opened higher to-day on better cables and an improved foreign demand. Northwestern receipts light. After the markets had fairly opened there was free realizations and prices broke. Afterward there was purchases on good exports and reports of three cargoes taken at San Francisco for France. At the close there was a fairly firmer tone.

Pork at Chicago for February, $7.55 nominal; May, $7.70; close, $7.65 bid.

February oats at Chicago, 15⅜c nominal; May, 18⅛c; close, 18⅛c asked.

Estimated receipts at Chicago for tomorrow: Wheat, cars, 28; corn, 390; oats, 240.

San Francisco reports three cargoes sold there for France.

World's visible decreased 2,500,000 bushels.

Bradstreet's shows: Wheat decrease east of Rockies, 1,954,000 bushels. Europe decreased 560,000; or in the aggregate 2,514,000 bushels. Corn increased 147,000 bushels, and oats decreased 47,000 bushels.

Closing cables: Wheat, spot ¼@1d lower; futures, 2@¾d higher. Corn, spot ¼d lower; futures steady, ¼d lower to ¼d higher. Paris wheat steady to 15c lower. Berlin wheat ¾ mark lower. Antwerp wheat 12½c lower.

Export clearances of wheat to-day, 153,787 bushels; flour, 46,022 barrels; or wheat and flour as wheat, 361,886 bushels.

Puts on May wheat at Chicago at 1:30, 74⅝c; calls, 76⅛c asked.

Corn started in with a fair degree of firmness and held well all the way through after a break soon after the opening. At Chicago February corn was worth 22⅝; May, 24¼@24⅜; July, 25¾@25⅞; close, 25⅜ bid. At New York May corn opened at 30¼ asked and closed at 30⅛ bid.

Prices of wheat to-day:

May.	Opened.	Highest.	Lowest.	Close.
Toledo	87⅝	88⅛	87⅝	88⅜
Chicago	74¾	75⅛	74⅝	b75¼
New York	81¼	82⅛	81	82⅛
St. Louis	81⅞	83⅛	81⅞	83⅛

At Chicago February wheat was worth 73⅜c; July, 71¾c, 71½c, 72¼c, then 72⅛c bid.

At New York July wheat opened at 78⅝c, and closed at 79⅛c bid.

Liverpool closed ¼@½d higher than opening, which was ¼d off.

Estimated French acreage of wheat sown is said to be 10 to 15 per cent less than a year ago.

New York says ten loads taken there for export.

Extract of letter dated Antwerp, Jan. 22: "Argentine is offering hardly anything. A small parcel was in the market to-day at 18¾ though the quality of it has been so unsatisfactory that no buyers could be found. The general wheat situation remains strong. Our millers have very small stocks on hand and with a better consumption demand which must come sooner or later, the market will again do better."

Primary receipts of wheat to-day, 221,000 bushels; same time last year, 429,000. Shipments, 278,000; same time last year, 138,000. Receipts of corn, 675,000; same time last year, 417,000. Shipments, 510,000; same time last year, 182,000 bushels.

Receipts in the Northwest to-day: Wheat, 124,000 bushels on track, cars, 260; same day last week, 127; same time last year, 664 cars.

London cargoes, wheat quiet but steady; on passage quiet. Cargoes corn quiet; on passage quiet, but steady. English country markets weak. French quiet. London wheat parcels rather dearer. Liverpool wheat, spot, dull, half penny lower; futures steady to 1d higher. Corn, spot, dull, ½d lower, futures quiet, ½d higher.

The Close at Toledo—Wheat Higher.

As compared with yesterday cash wheat at the local exchange closed 1¾ up, May 1¾ and July ⅝c better. Trade active for May. Prices closed firm.

No. 2 soft red wheat, 86¾, then 87¾; No. 3 soft red, 83½.

May wheat, 87⅜, 87¾, 88⅜, then 88⅜; July, 75; close 75⅜.

Corn—Active, Higher.

Trade in corn was unusually heavey, being confined mostly to May. Prices were ⅜c up at the close, and firmer: No. 2 mixed corn, 21¾; No. 3, 21; No. 2 May, 24⅜, 24⅜, 24⅜, and close 24⅜. Last sale was for 150,000 bushels.

Rye dull. No. 2, 37c bid.

Clover seed active for lower grades. Prime cash, nominally $5.20; March, $5.25; No. 2 seed, $4; rejected closed at $3.90; No. 2 mammoth, $4.20; close, $4.25. Receipts, 233 bags; shipments, 409 bags.

Oats quiet. No. 2 mixed, about 18c; No. 2 May, 18⅛c bid.

Toledo Produce Market.

There was a fairly good trade on the market this morning. Prices hold steady for most things. Butter steady. Eggs a trifle easy.

Butter—Ohio and Michigan creamery, 18@19c; dairy, 14c; Elgin, 21c.

Eggs—Fresh, 16@17c.

Cheese—Full cream, 9½@10c.

Vegetables—Celery, dozen stalks, 25@40c; potatoes, bu., 25@30c; sweet potatoes, bu., 60@80c; parsnips, bu., 25c; rutabagas, bu., 30c; carrots, bu., 20@25c; onions, bu., 75c; beans, hand-picked, bu., 80c@$1.00; turnips, bu., 20c; cabbages, dozen, 25@40c; Holland cabbage, lb., 1½c.

Poultry—Chickens, dressed, lb., 7½@8½c; turkeys, dressed, 12@12½c; ducks, dressed, 10½@11½c; geese, dressed, 9½@10½c.

Fruits—Pine-apples, dozen, $1.25@2.00; apples, bu., 25@40c; lemons, box, $2.50@3.00; oranges, box, $3.50; cranberries, quart, 8c.

Apple-butter, per gallon, 50c.

Dressed Meats—Hogs, per 100 lbs., $3.50@4.00; beef, lb., 3½@7c; sheep, lb., 5@5½c; lambs, lb., 6@6½c; veal, lb., 6½@7c.

Smoked Meats—Hams, sugar-cured, heavy, lb., 9c; light hams, 9½@10c; mess pork, $7; short mess, 9c; short clear, 10c; breakfast bacon, rib, 8½c; clear, 10c; bologna sausage, lb., 5c; pork sausage, lb., 5c; home made country sausage, lb., 10c; scrapple, lb., 8c.

Timothy Seed—$1.60@1.75, as to quality.

Wool—Unwashed, 8@13c; washed, 12@16c; tub washed, 17c.

Lard—No. 1 kettle, cans of 3, 5 and 10 lbs., 7c; 50 lbs., 6c.

Hay—Car lots, choice timothy, ton, $10; No. 1 hay, $9.50; No. 2 hay, $8.50.

Straw—Car lots, bright rye, $6.00; wheat straw, $5.00; oat straw, $5.00.

Corn fodder, shredded, $5.00@6.00.

Feed—Bran, ton, $9; middlings, $10; chop feed, ton, car lots, $12; car lots, No. 2, $10; coarse meal, $10.

Ear corn, bushel, 15c; shelled corn, bu., 30c.

Flour—Spring patent, barrel, $4.75@5.25; winter patents, $5.00@5.50; winter straight, $4.50@5.00; buckwheat flour, per ton, $30.

Rock salt, ton, $7; pork packing salt, bbl., 90c; eastern salt, $1; Michigan, 75c.

Hides—Green, No. 1 cows and light hides, lb., 6c; No. 2's, 5c; heavy steers, No. 1, 6c; bulls and No. 2's, 5c; green calf, No. 1, 8c; No. 2's, 6½c; kip, No. 1, 7c; No. 2's, 5½c; cured No. 1 hides, 7½c; No. 2's, 6½c; No. 1 calf cured, 9½c; No. 2's, 8c; sheep pelts, 25@50c.

Furs—Muskrat, 5@14c; skunk, 10@75c; raccoon, 10@75c; mink, 25@$1.00; red fox, $1.00@1.25; gray fox, 50c; deer hides, 75c@$1.25.

Tallow—Per lb., 3@3½c.

Beeswax—Per lb., 20@25c.

Petroleum—Prime white, Ohio test, 7¼c; water white, 8¼c; headlight, 9¼c; silver light, 9c; eocene, 10½c; stove gasoline, 9¼c; 63 test naphtha, 7¼c.

Grain and Produce.

Chicago, Feb. 2.—Close: Wheat—February, 73⅜c; May, 75⅜c; July, 72¼c; September, 70⅛c. Corn—February, 22⅝c; May, 24⅜c; July, 25¾c; September, 27c. Oats—February, 15⅜c; May, 18⅛c; July, 18⅜@18½c. Pork—February, $7.55; May, $7.65. Lard—February, $3.77; May, $3.90; July, $4.00. Ribs—February, $3.87; May, $3.90; July, $4.00. Barley—Cash, No. 3, 24@35c. Rye—Cash, 34½c; May, 36½c. Flax—Cash, 75¾c; cash northwestern, 76½c; May, 76⅜c; July, 78½c; September, 79½c. Timothy—Cash, $2.80; March, $2.90.

New York, Feb. 2.—Butter—Receipts, 5,893 pkgs.; steady; western creamery, 13@21c; Elgins, 21c; factory, 7@14c. Cheese—Receipts, 3,295 pkgs.; steady; state, large, [illegible]; state small, 8½@12c; part skims, [illegible]; skims, 3@3½c. Eggs—Receipts, 6,980 pkgs.; quiet; state and Pennsylvania, 19c; Western, 13½@18c. Sugar—Raw quiet; fair refining, 3¼@3 3-16c; centrifugal 96 test, [illegible]; refined quiet; crushed, 4⅞c; powdered, [illegible]; granulated, 4⅛c. Coffee—Dull; No. 7, [illegible].

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Live Stock.

East Buffalo, N. Y., Feb. 2.—(Fitch Bros.' report, exclusive to The Blade.)—No cattle on sale. Hogs—Receipts, 20 cars; market [illegible] and lower; Yorkers, $3.65@3.70; mediums, $3.60; heavy, $3.50. Sheep and Lambs—Receipts, 10 cars; market dull; best lambs, $5.10; butcher grades, $3.70@4.00.

Union Stock Yards, Cleveland, O., Feb. 2.—Bower & Bower say: Hogs—Receipts, 15 cars; market generally 5c lower; fair demand; Yorkers and lights, $3.60; pigs, $3.50@3.60; mediums and heavies, $3.45@3.50; stags and roughs, $2.25@2.90; closing quiet. Sheep and Lambs—Receipts, 4 cars; market steady; sheep, $2.00@3.50; lambs, $3.50@4.80. Cattle—Market quiet and unchanged.

Chicago, Feb. 2.—Hogs—Official receipts yesterday, 44,860; shipments, 11,138; receipts to-day, 27,000; left over, 3,000; estimated receipts to-morrow, 35,000; market slow and fully 10c lower than yesterday morning; light, $3.30@3.45; mixed, $3.25@3.47½; heavy, $3.15@3.40; rough, $3.15@3.20. Cattle—Official receipts yesterday, 14,830; shipments, 3,175; receipts to-day, 3,500; quiet but steady; beeves, $3.50@5.45; cows and heifers, $1.75@4.10; Texas steers, $3.00@4.15; stockers and feeders, $3.10@4.10. Sheep—Official receipts yesterday, $14,860; shipments, 11,138; receipts to-day, 12,000; slow and unchanged.

DAY ON WALL STREET.

Close of the Stock Market at New York This Afternoon.

New York, Feb. 2.—Trading at the exchange displayed general weakness on renewals of realizations and the unfavorable effect of several sales of Northern Pacific preferred, which yielded 1⅛ per cent to 37⅞. The losses otherwise were restricted to fractional limits with Sugar prominent in the dealings.

The bear contingent selected the Gould properties for attack, and on free sales Western Union declined 1⅛ and Manhattan a sharp fraction before the close of the first hour of the trading. The general market extended lower, with Burlington adversely influenced by a renewal of Boston selling. There was an absence of feature in the general market. Northern Pacific securities were the leaders in point of activity, and registered further declines on profit taking by traders.

The market lapsed into dullness after 11 o'clock, and but few changes of consequence occurred in values outside of the usually active stocks. London operations are rather light, and on both sides the market at 12 o'clock was fairly steady. Sales [illegible] 300 shares.

New York, Feb. 2.—Money on call nominally 1½@2 per cent. Prime mercantile paper, 3@4 per cent. Sterling exchange steady with actual business in bankers' bills at $4.86@4.86¼ for demand and at $4.84@4.84¼ for 60 days; posted rates, $4.85@4.86 and $4.87@4.88; commercial bills, $4.83@4.84. Silver certificates, 64⅝@65⅛c; no sales. Bar silver, 64⅝c. Mexican dollars, 50c.

Corrected daily by Kuhn & Co.

	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.
D. & H.	107½	108	107½	[illegible]
J. C.	100¼	100½	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lack.	152½	153½	[illegible]	[illegible]
Reading	26½	26⅝	[illegible]	[illegible]
T. C. I.	30¼	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Atchison	14⅛	14⅛	14⅛	[illegible]
C. B. & Q.	75⅞	75⅞	[illegible]	[illegible]
M. P.	22⅛	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
N. W.	104¾	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
N. P. pfd.	38⅞	38⅞	37⅞	[illegible]
Omaha	51½	51½	51⅛	[illegible]
R. I.	68⅛	68⅛	67⅝	[illegible]
St. Paul	76⅞	76⅞	76⅜	[illegible]
D. C. F.	14⅛	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gas	78⅛	78⅛	78	[illegible]
Gen. Elec.	35⅛	35⅛	35⅛	[illegible]
Leather	62	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sugar	117	117	116⅝	[illegible]
Tobacco	74	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
L. & N.	51⅛	51⅜	51	[illegible]
Manhattan	89⅝	90⅛	[illegible]	[illegible]
M. K. & T.	30¾	31	30¾	[illegible]
Pacific Mail	25⅛	25⅛	[illegible]	[illegible]
W. U.	83⅝	83⅝	83⅝	[illegible]
Wabash pfd.	16⅛	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
C. C. C. & I.	28⅛	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
C. S.	46⅛	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
L. S.	154½	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
N. Y. C.	93⅝	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Trade.

The general trade of the country has fallen off during the past week on account of heavy snows and cold weather. There was a moderate increase in the distribution of heavy winter goods.

Louisville Tobacco Market.

Louisville, Feb. 1.—Receipts light for the week; offerings reduced for both old and new crop. Colory trashes somewhat improved. Medium red fillers in demand. Dark tobacco somewhat improved. Official quotations are:

1895 CROP.

Red Burley.	
Trash (green or mixed)	$ 1.00@ 1.50
Trash (sound)	[illegible]
Common lugs	[illegible]
Medium lugs	[illegible]
Good lugs	[illegible]
Common leaf (short)	[illegible]
Common leaf	[illegible]
Medium leaf	[illegible]
Good leaf	11.00@14.00
Fine and selections	14.00@18.50
Colory Burley.	
Trash (green or mixed)	[illegible]
Trash (sound)	[illegible]
Common lugs	[illegible]
Medium lugs	[illegible]
Good lugs	[illegible]
Common leaf (short)	[illegible]
Common leaf	[illegible]
Medium leaf	[illegible]
Good leaf	[illegible]
Fine and selections	[illegible]
Dark.	
Trash (green or mixed)	[illegible]
Trash (sound)	[illegible]
Common lugs	[illegible]
Medium lugs	[illegible]
Good lugs	[illegible]
Common leaf (short)	[illegible]
Common leaf	[illegible]
Medium leaf	[illegible]
Good leaf	[illegible]

1896 CROP.

Red Burley.	
Trash (green or mixed)	[illegible]
Trash (sound)	[illegible]
Common lugs	[illegible]
Medium lugs	[illegible]
Good lugs	[illegible]
Common leaf (short)	[illegible]
Common leaf	[illegible]
Medium leaf	[illegible]
Good leaf	[illegible]
Fine and selections	[illegible]
Colory Burley.	
Trash (green or mixed)	[illegible]
Trash (sound)	[illegible]
Common lugs	[illegible]
Medium lugs	[illegible]
Good lugs	[illegible]
Common leaf (short)	[illegible]
Common leaf	[illegible]
Medium leaf	[illegible]
Good leaf	[illegible]
Fine and selections	[illegible]

New York Cotton Market.

New York, Feb. 2.—The cotton market opened steady with prices 1 to 4 points lower, following disappointing Liverpool advices. This was followed by a loss of 2 points under estimates of liberal receipts at the ports and liquidation by houses with Liverpool and New Orleans connections. At 11 o'clock the market was quiet at a net loss of 3@4 points. Trading was almost at a standstill, sales during the first hour reaching but 20,000 bales. Spot cotton quiet; middling uplands, 7 15-16c; middling gulf, 7 9-16c. Futures opened steady; sales, 3,000 bales; March, $7.05; April, $7.10; May, $7.16; June, $7.20; July, $7.25; August, $7.24; September, $6.86; October, $6.77; November, $6.78; December, $6.86.

Wool Market.

Dun's Review says of wool:

Very heavy purchases are recorded, almost exclusively for speculation, 16,031,000 lbs. at the three chief markets for the week, and for four weeks of January 37,547,000 lbs. against 24,020,500 last year, and 20,772,000 in the same weeks of 1892. The increase has been largely in domestic, of which sales were 23,397,300 lbs., the largest on record in January. The following shows the sales for four weeks of January in each year:

	Domestic.	Foreign.
1897	23,397,300	13,13[illegible]
1896	9,945,600	14,074,000
1895	13,694,515	9,551,553
1894	12,921,500	1,394,300
1893	19,042,630	7,266,400
1892	13,550,500	7,221,500

The buying is by heavy mills, mainly at the East, some of which are not running at all, others running part time, and some are running report that they are not selling goods. Prices are not materially changed, though pulled wool is a little stronger, and holders of fleece are looking for higher prices not yet obtained. Sales at New York were more than they have been for a long time, and almost wholly speculative. The market at Philadelphia is very active, about three-quarters of the quantity sold going to mills of New England and the Middle States. Ohio XX is quoted at 19 to 20 cents.

Kalamazoo, Mich., is famous for celery. See Thos. Slater's offer on page 3.